#### A MEMORIAL **GARDEN FOR DIANA**

WEEKEND

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O EXTRA SECTIONS: THE NEW BRITISH FOOD - A

TIMES

# Libraries will put grannies on the Net

By Philip Webster and Dominic Kennedy

EVERY public library in Britain should provide access to the Internet, according to the ground-breaking report which recommends a vast upgrade of lending libraries.
Tony Blair has asked Chris

Smith, the Heritage Secretary, to draw up proposals by the end of the year based on the study by the Library and Information Commission, to be published next week.

The far-reaching plans to hook up Britain's libraries to Internet would cost £750 million over five years. There is no question of the Government coming up with that sum on its own so Mr. Smith has been asked to work out ways in which the programme could be introduced hrough parmerships between central and local government and the private sector.

Mr Smith is expected to say next Wednesday, when the report New Library: The Peo-ple's Network is unveiled, that it could represent "a defining moment for the British library network.

The report says every public library in Britain should provide access to the Internet. But the price could be the end of the free library service with library users paying to use computers. The involvement

#### Times sales forge ahead

Average daily sales of The Times last month were 821,000, an increase of 54,600 over August and the biggest achieved by any national daily broadsheet newspaper.

Meanwhile, sales of The Daily Telegraph are dropping, according to the critical longer term index of circulation averiged over six months. Between April and Sep-tember, compared to March to August, average sales of The Times were up by 14,200, against a fall of 1,350 for The Daily Telegraph.

1	WEATHER 32
Ì	CROSSWORD32
1	COURT & SOCIAL24
1	LETTERS 23, 61
1	OBITUARIES25
	SHARE PRICES
1	THEATRES21
l	GO45-49
1	MONEY,51-64
1	WEEKEND
1	GARDENING

PROPERTY....

TRAVEL.



of the private sector would monopoly for the first time.

mends that Britain's irreplace able collections of rare books manuscripts, paintings and historical artefacts should be named into digital records and stored for posterity in a new technology "Doomsday Book" of the nation's heritage.

modem and a telephone line can eain access to the Internet But there are fears of dividing society into the informationrich and the information-poor as the basic hardware costs more than £1,000.

A ministerial source said last night: "We want every child to be computer literate by the year 2002. How marvellous it would be if we can get Granny on the Internet as

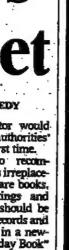
Mr Blair found an enthusiastic supporter for the shake-up in Bill Gates, the President of Microsoft and one of the

his proposals for a national grid for learning. He an-nounced on Tuesday that he had plans to link 32,000

for degrees using computer facilities to link students with universities miles away.

of the report's authors, said that revolutionary changes in new technology during the next few years would bring about previously undreamed of increases in the quality and quantity of detailed informa-tion and knowledge available to the public.

Libraries last year raised £12 million in hire charges for videotapes and music CDs. but are prevented by law from charging for the loan of books. There are 4,759 libraries in Britain, including 693 which are mobile. Book lovers are also served by 19,136 service



Anybody with a computer,

worlds' biggest names in computers, when he visited Downing Street earlier this

The authors of the report have been inspired by the Gates Library Foundation, set up by Bill and Melinda Gates to provide \$200 million (£125 million) in cash and the same amount in software to public libraries in low-income groups throughout North America.

Mr Blair sees it fitting into schools to the Internet.

The Government is also keen to allow adults to study Matthew Evans, chairman

points in hospitals, prisons



England captain Paul Ince. "If they say anything about Paul Ince, they have to say he is a hard tackler, but he tackles fair. He is a hard man in that respect; he wants to win

"As we had nothing on tonight I've invited the Barringtons over for bridge"

# English eyes on Rome — and Glasgow

By Alan Hamilton

THE lowly paid underdogs of Latvia could today guarantee England's footballers a World Cup bonus payment of £200,000 each before they even kick a ball against Italy tonight.

It works like this. Under the byzantine play-off system, if Latvia defeat Scotland in their match in Glasgow this afternoon, England should qualify for the World Cup finals even if their new captain, Paul Ince, leads them to defeat in Rome. The players would then be in line for hefty bonuses and

licensing royalties from a £3 million pot to be paid into team funds.

As English eyes turn to the match against Italy tonight, Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, said yesterday he expected Scotland to win - which would require England at least to draw

to qualify automatically.

The worst possible scenario for Hoddle is a Scottish win coupled with his own defeat. That would consign England to a two-leg play-off with one of the other runners-up, which could mean a trip to Russia or Yugoslavia.

In an interview with The Times

today, Ince dismisses suggestions he is a dirty or malicious player. "If they say anything about Paul Ince, they have to say he is a hard tackler, but he tackles fair. He is a hard man in that respect; he wants to win," says the England skipper, brought in because of fitness doubts about Tony Adams, and with the advantage of a smattering of Italian, having had a brief career with Internazionale of Milan before returning to captain Liverpool. Ince's men stand to enjoy some of the most generous bonuses seen in English

football. In addition to a £1,500-a-head

match fee on top of income from playing international football that can exceed £50,000 a year, the players stand to share a pot of £500,000 bonus payments from a consortium of leading commercial sponsors including Green Flag, Carlsberg, Procter & Gamble, Mars and Coca-Cola.

Leading article, page 23 Roman crossroads, page 33 Ince interview, page 35 Steve McManaman, page 36 Scotland's task, page 37 Weekend, page 13

# Judge orders acquittal of officers accused of rape

By TIM JONES AND ADRIAN LEE

SIX young Army officers accused of gang-raping a student were yesterday acquitted on the orders of a judge but their reputations and careers are in tatters.

Judge Julian Hall halted the trial at Oxford Crown Court after ten days, deciding that the woman's account of her alleged ordeal in an officers' mess, was riddled with "dramatic inconsistencies".

But he told the officers: "If six men think it is a good idea to have sex with one woman they run the risk of being accused of rape. I think they have brought this prosecution on themselves." He said the men realised they had gone and old people's homes.

too far. The episode "was ill thought through by everybody and it does no-one any credit". Last night the 23-year-old student, the mother of a threemonth-old child, said she had "no regrets" about accusing the six of rape, adding "I hope

they rot in hell". All six, from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, were taken back to a barracks at Abingdon in Ox-fordshire last night as the Army confirmed it has begun its own investigation.

As they were acquitted they cannot face a court martial but they could be discharged. As they walked free. Captain Phillip Bates, 29, Captain

Darren Bartlett, 24, Captain Ian Barlow, 29, Lieutenant Matthew Tupling, 21, and officer cadets Nicholas Oettinger, 21, and Andrew Stout, 20, refused to comment.

Will Sheppard, their solicitor, said: "They have all been through what can only be described as a nightmare." The men were accused of raping the student in a bed-

room after cavorting naked in a sauna in the officer's mess at the Royal Military College of Science, at Shrivenham, Oxfordshire, on May 27 last year. The six claimed she had consented to sex.

Student's bitterness, page 3

#### THE SATURDAY TIMES **Now Bigger** and Better

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This week: PEPS

For motorists, bilisers and everyone on the move in Section 2 :

The week's TV and radio

**FULL INDEX** Back Page



CALIFORNIA

# US rejects Nobel plea on landmines

By Tom Rhodes in Washington and Our Foreign Staff

PRESIDENT CLINTON, criticised last night by the new Nobel peace laureate for failing to sign up to a global ban on landmines, refused to alter America's policy towards the deadly weapons.

Congratulating Jody Williams, the co-ordinator jordy awarded the prize with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the White House said Washington would continue to work with the UN Conference on Disar-

mament in Geneva. Aides said the President had no plans to join the Ottawa process, the treaty calling for a global moratorium which was ratified by 89 nations in Oslo

last month. The President was clear last month that the Ottawa treaty did not address the concerns of the Administration, particlarly in places like the Korean peninsula," a National Security Council

aide said. The reaction provoked a stinging riposte from Ms Williams, who described Mr Clinton as "neither a leader nor a

Landmine victim Chris Moon, whose bravery inspired Diana, the Princess of Wales, said the award of the prize was a fitting epitaph to her humanitarian campaign.

Africa scarred, page 9

### Hague apologises for ERM debacle

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM HAGUE yesterday broke with the Conservative past by delivering an unreserved apology to the country for the last Government's "great mistake" of entering the European exchange-rate mechanism.

It was time, he told the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool, to be "brutally candid" about the fateful move in 1990 that led to the mayhem of Black Wednesday and eventually destroyed the credibility of the Tories. "I'm sorry we did it. We should have the courage and the confidence to say so. he said.

Almost everyone thought it was a good idea at the time but

the party paid the price, he added. "We went into something when the time was not right and we must never let that happen to our country It was another indication of

his decision to take a hard line against entry to the single currency, which he confirmed could not be contemplated in the "foreseeable future." Mr Hague's decision to

apologise and "purge our contempt", as one of his aides put it, brought one of the loudest cheers in his rallying address to the conference.

Conference, pages 12-14 Leading article, page 23

Brighton. Britain got Salvation. From the new Tory leader at Blackpool yesterday we had a folksy chat. In nine days we have travelled from Jerusalem to

As a speaker, William Hague is engaging, rather than rousing. He was at his best in the Winter Gardens when he was at his gentlest: poking fun at new Labour. explaining with apparent sincerity the change of heart he urges upon his party.

alert. This is still a dangerous world ... ) fell pretty flat, whereas Hague's wry mickeytaking over new Labour's Armani Army delighted his audience. Fifteen years ago, "Let's bomb Russia" would have raised a cheer among Tory representatives. Yesterday, Mr Hague pleased them better with a Let's bomb Islington" theme.

successful. A noisy passage about keeping up Britain's defences ("I put Labour on red

To draw wild applause with the line "I love Wales" is some kind of an achievement in Tory politics. Aides and gag-writers often wince as a tineared politician wrecks their lines. But yesterday speechwriters surely looked up in surprise as this most professional of northern stand-up artistes made even indifferent material sing.

There was no Autocue, but a typed text on the lectern. It is always interesting to guess the instincts of a speaker by noting how, in the delivery, he modifies his pre-released script. Whenever Mr Hague veered off the printed track it was to become more conversa-



tional. The more conversational he got, the better it worked. Hague conjures a kind of intimacy, a quietly reasoning style, unusual at Tory (or new Labour) occasions. His trademark is the unspoken wink. Who would have though it possible to draw from so many elderly ladies the knowing laughter Hague won with his line: "Mr

He had the defects of his virtues. An over-long speech included pages of declaratory prose, protesting (too much, and far too often) that Tories have principles, too. The passages dragged.

And can we now have an amnesty on Yorkshire boyhoods? How many more reftalking can the rest of Britain take? Mr Hague told us about Hague Soft Drinks Ltd's dandelion and burdock brew. Yorkshire farmers' sucklercow premium blues, his Yorkshire comprehensive, and the lessons you learn about growing up if you are lucky enough to be born in Yorkshire. Voters struggling to make a success of their lives without

the advantage of a Yorkshire birthright will grow resentful if we get much more of this. Still, plainspeaking was eff-

ective - almost too effective.

Talking about Black Wednesday. Hague used a word few have heard from a British politician. "I'm sorry." he

Sorry? At first the audience seemed stunned. One lady shouted: "So are we!" Then they clapped. Beneath the folksiness and the charm, this was a subversive text. I noted the line "... you have to give freedom to those who you fear may abuse it ... to those whose values you profoundly disagree with". When, 20 years ago, I suggested almost identical lines to my boss.

Thope the says fairly new Leader of the Opposition, she struck them from my draft.

Hague sounded as though he really meant to change his party. A hint of the deadweight he must shift lay, perhaps, in the reaction to a line early in his speech. "I'd like to tell you about an open Conservatism that ... believes freedom doesn't stop at the shop counter."

There followed a baffled silence, then thin applause.

Conference, pages 12-14

# Immigration law changed for gay partners

FOREIGN nationals in homosexual relationships with Britthe right to settle in the United In a major liberalisation of

immigration guidelines, the Government announced yesterday that it was relaxing the regulations for unmarried couples, covering homosexuals and heterosexuals in long-term relationships. Mike O'Brien, the Home

Office Immigration Minister, said that the Government had decided to act because the old guidelines were "unsustainable and may have breached human rights law". The Government's move

was immediately condemned by Conservatives. Ann Widdecombe, the former Home Office Minister, said: "It undermines marriage and secondly it undermines immi-

gration control." Lord Tebbit said: "It is clear that the Government's policy is to place sodomite marriage on the same standing as the honourable estate of matrimony. Presumably now we will have to endure a succession of real or alleged homosexual partners being brought in to

avoid our immigration rules," Lord Tebbit's comments drew a sharp reaction from Mr O'Brien. He said: "William Hague has called for compassion in their party. This was their first test and they flunked it. The cold, nasty heart of the party has been exposed. It is not the right

Stonewall, the gay-rights pressure group, welcomed the move. Mike Watson, the group's chair, said: "We are very pleased that the Immigration Minister recognises that the policy of the previous Government was unjust and unsustainable. We have had a very difficult struggle for the right to live and love the partner of our choice."

Mr O'Brien's announcement, which will come into force on Monday, followed a wide-ranging review by the new Government of regulations applying to unmarried couples, including homosex-uals, lesbians and heterosexuals. Under the old guidelines foreign nationals from outside the European Union in such relationships with British citizens had no automatic right to remain in this country.

Mr O'Brien said that the

Government was "replacing an unfair policy with a fairer one". But in a attempt to reassure traditionalists the minister said the new criteria would be "strict and much tighter" than for married couples in order to preserve the "special position of marriage".

Under the new guidelines a couple will have to show that they have been living together for at least four years and that they intend to live together for the rest of their lives. Once admitted to Britain the couple relationship has lasted a further year before they are

allowed to settle. Mr O'Brien said: "The key requirement of immigration policy is fairness. The new policy will keep the special position of marriage. But it would be unfair to stop unmarried people in long-stand-ing relationships from being together if they would other-wise satisfy the immigration guidelines and meet certain other criteria, but are unable to get married."



Boris Yeltsin, Helmut Kohl and Tony Blair at lunch in Strasbourg yesterday before the announcement

# Yeltsin's Franco-Russian deal undermines Blair's Euro hopes

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN STRASBOURG

ship in Europe was dealt a setback summit without inviting Britain.

News of the Franco-German arrange ment with Russia was announced by Presidents Chirac and Yeltsin after Mr Blair had already left the summit of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Only two hours earlier, Mr Blair, fresh from a visit to Moscow, had outlined the Government's plans to bring Britain into line with the rest of Europe by incorporating the 1950 Convention on Human Rights into domestic law. Britain would "lead the way" in Europe, he said.

The words lost some of their force when a jovial Mr Yeltsin and M Chirac

TONY BLAIR'S drive for British leader- emerged after lunch to announce that in every relationship across the whole they had agreed, with Helmut Kohl, the world. We regard this as a very welcome German Chancellor, to hold annual development that enhances Russia's role continent. The meetings would be "an important force, a necessary element in the deepening of peace," M Chirac said.

Mr Yeltsin was delighted with an arrangement that bolsters Russia's ties with the West and which, as he put it. recognises "Russia's place in the European family". Russia, France and Germany had "common problems, common business to discuss", he said.

Tony Lloyd, a Foreign Office Minister, but acknowledged that no prior warning was given of it. "Of course this is not a snub for Britain. Britain doesn't take part

Italian officials, irked by their exclusion, muttered about a "Franco-German stitch-up". Despite the British line, one council official described the announcement of the "troika" summit as "weird" because it had been presented in the context of the European club.

EU officials said British exclusion would have been barely noticed under the previous Government, but it carried a message in the light of Mr Blair's European aspirations. He is to host a summit of east European states applying for EU membership in February.

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Council 'left hundreds at risk of neglect'

fundamental weaknesses" and "failures" in the social services department of Setton Borough Council, Mersey-side. The report said hundreds of vulnerable children and

old people had been left at risk of abuse or neglect.

It found that the council had failed to allocate a social worker to nearly 200 children on the council's child protection register or identified at being "at risk". Eight of the council's homes for old people failed to meet health and safety standards, and more than 100 elderly people were stranded in hospital beds because of social workers' failures.

#### McCartney plea to Blair

Tony Blair was lobbied by one of his childhood heroes yesterday when Sir Paul McCartney pleaded for financial support for his Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. which is facing crippling debts. During a meeting at Chequers — their first since the election — Sir Paul was expected to tell the Prime Minister that his performing arts school needs millions of pounds to continue.

#### GPs win medicine war

Doctors can were given the go-ahead to continue to allow their receptionists to dispense prescriptions after a High Court test case brought by pharmacists. The chemists, who receive 94.6p for each prescription they dispense and are reimbursed by the NHS, claimed they were better trained and that doctors usually left the handing over of medicines to their receptionists, putting the public at risk.

#### **Promise for Britain**

A British offshoot of the American "Promise Keepers", the organisation which headed a prayer rally of one million men in Washington last week, is to be launched at a rally in London in May. Promise Keepers UK is being set up by English churchgoers to help men recover from what they term "a crisis of identity". Meetings will be held next month in eight churches across Britain. Feet of clay, page 15

#### Killing was self-defence

A factory worker who stabbed a man through the heart with a penknife in a fight was cleared of murder and manslaughter at Winchester Crown Court. Stuart O'Neill. 32, of Southampton, said he produced his knife in selfdefence after Phillip Gray, 24, frightened his dog in Hoglands Park, Southampton, and started to punch him. He said: "I never intended to use the knife."

#### Guerin murder arrests

Dutch police last night arrested two suspects in connection with the murder of Veronica Guerin, the Irish journalist, in June 1996. Brian Mechan, 32, and John Traynor, 48, both of Dublin, were arrested in Amsterdam after police followed Mr Meehan's girlfriend from Dublin yesterday. All three were taken into police custody. Irish police had issued a warrant for the arrest of Mr Mechan.

#### **HARRODS** FASHION ESSENTIALS.

THE CHOKER.



This exclusive seven row faux pearl choker is part of the new 'Heirloom Violet' range by Marvella, now available from the Designer Jewellery Room at Harrods. Its elaborate floral detailing is highlighted by amethyst and clear crystal in an 'antique' style silver setting.

. Marvella is one of many jewellers offering complimentary gifts with selected purchases between now and 16th November. See in-store for details. Don't miss out on this glittering opportunity. Designer Jewellery, Ground Floor.

Harrods Limited, Knightsbridge, London SWIX 7XL. Telephone 0171-730 1234.

# Police chief to have partner in drug tsar post

By Valerie Elliott and Stewart Tendler

by the threat of drugs that he has decided to appoint two

paign against the problem. Keith Heliawell, the outspo-ken Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police and a national expert on drug problems, is to lead the work with police and on the ground. He is to be joined by a

second person who has experience of prisons and drug treatment to share the workload. The precise division of responsibilities and the Government's approach to a new national drugs strategy will be announced next week by Ann Taylor, the Leader of the Commons and chairman of a Cabinet sub-committee on

drug problems.

The decision to split the role came after ministers found great difficulty reaching a decision about the choice of tsar. Part of the problem may have been that ministers felt



Hellawell: to lead

TONY BLAIR is so concerned that Mr Hellawell. 56, may have been too old to reach out to young people and their drug culture.

But the scale of the task was also a factor which persuaded ministers that they should have two figures at the helm. emphasise next week that the Government has no intention of legalising cannabis.

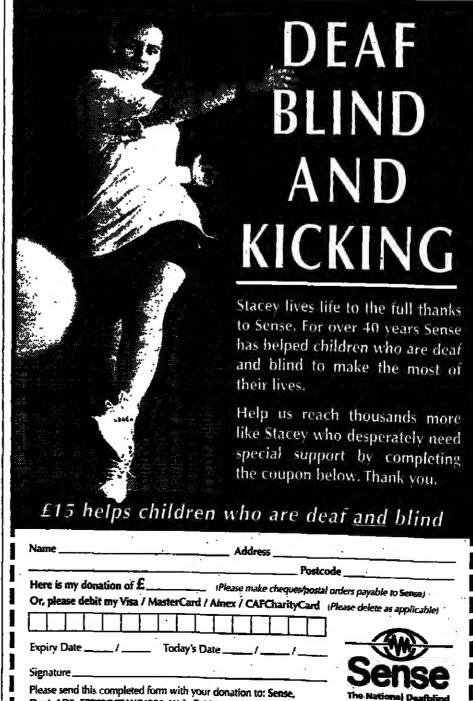
The tsars are to have special adviser posts in the Cabinet Salaries are nor known, but the present maximum salary for a special adviser is £73,000.

Mr Hellawell, who held his current post for seven years, earns closer to £100,000 and it is possible that Mr Blair might increase the salary of the new job with the agreement of Parliament. Mr Hellawell, a member of

the Home Office's advisory council on the misuse of drugs since 1994, has repeatedly warned about the dangers to society from drug abuse, including telling parents that soft drugs were as much a part of today's youth culture as tobacco was to his generation.

He has also revealed evidence of heroin addicts as young as 12 turning to prostitution, and the need for compulsory treatment of drug

Mrs Taylor has been privately studying work in Europe on drug problems and spent two days this week in France and Holland. The trip included a visit to a coffee shop in Amsterdam where cannabis is sold for personal use.



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pe claim

# . I hope they rot in hell, says Army rape claim student

THE student whose gang rape case against six army officers collapsed yesterday said bitterly after they had walked free: "I hope they rot in

The 23-year-old was not in court but made no attempt to disguise her bitterness and said she had no regrets about bringing the case. The woman said she had brought the charges to encourage other women not to remain silent if they believed they had been raped.

Speaking from her parents home. she said she was "shocked" that the case had collapsed but ruled out any civil claim against the six she had accused. Her hope now was that the men would be thrown out of the Army. I grew up believing that officers were gentlemen. Now I know different. Giving evidence was a nightmare. I just wanted to cry the whole time."

She said her solicitor telephoned her with the news. "I could not believe it. I just started to cry and

#### THE WOMAN

REPORTS BY MICHAEL EVANS, ADRIAN LEE, TIM PAUL WILKINSON AND PAUL WHITTAKER

giving the whole truth about other sexual encounters with soldiers. The court heard that she had previously consented to sex with two of the men. "I omitted details because I wanted them to believe what I was saying. I don't regret reporting it at the time. I did it for other women. I wanted to be strong for them."

She urged others in her situation to tell the whole truth from the start and said those who made rape allegations should retain their anonymity. "If they don't, no one will come forward to report rapes."

Her main priority now was to continue her studies as a computer programmer and raise her three-month-old son. "We will just take it

# **Conflicting stories**

IT WAS her best friend's account of the night they spent at the Shrivenham college that undermined the 23-year-old student's the college from the fête, she had

Although the friend was a witness for the prosecution, the judge said that her account had helped the defence. The telephone call inviting her to take part in group sex with some soldiers she had met at a golf club had clearly indicated that the complainant was considering hav-

The complainant had claimed

### THE FRIEND

gone with only one officer from the sauna to change her clothes. However, this did not tally with the account given by her friend, who was in another officer's room and said that she had heard laughing and giggling in the corridor outside and that one of the voices was that of the complainant. This had made it clear that there were others and indicated that the complainant was totally supportive but I still feel numb." She declined to name the father of her child, but said he was a close friend who lived near by. They

were not together, but remained ·Her friends said she admitted to a

series of failed relationships, but maintained she never had a reputation for promiscuity. While working at the golf club where she was to meet the six soldiers, she had had a brief affair with her employer, but by the time of this incident she was seeing another man. Although the two were living together, their relationship was "rocky" and had been effectively over before the

The woman was brought up in the military as her father was a sergeant in the RAF. Her friends said that, as a young woman, she was attracted to officers but, because of her own modest upbringing, was in awe of them. As a child, her father's rank denied her the chance to mix with the officer class, so she welcomed the attention of the dashing young men from Shriven-ham who drank at the golf club.

She was a familiar figure at the pubs and nightclubs near the military academy and worked part-time as a barmaid. To the soldiers she was an easy target. Studying in a predominantly male environment she was, to use the words of one, "a game-on bird". In an interview with MoD police another of the men described her as a "tart".

Another of the accused, describing sex with the young woman, said he "climbed aboard" her. Ten days before the incident, she marked three soldiers out of ten for their kissing technique at a Swindon



Matthew Tupling



ه حدد من رالم مل

Darren Bartlett





# New code to ban antics of the 'Triathlon Club'

THE trial highlighted the antics of the so-called Triathion Club, with its three disciplines of "booze, birds and brawling", which scandalised senior officers and presented the Army in the worst possible light.

Associates said that three of the six — Captain Phillip Bates, Captain Ian Barlow and Lieutenant Matthew Tupling - had helped to form

#### THE ARMY

stationed in Germany in 1992. Five of the six accused were studying at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham and the sixth had previously attended the Shrivenham, the five had discussed sex openly, walked naked around the officers' mess and drunk heavily in the six officers, what remained on

local pubs. At the Eagle pub a picture of Captain Bates was oinned to the wall during a caption competition. The winning entry read: "His name is Phillip Bates. He screwed a girl with a load of his mates." During legal arguments in

the trial the court was told that the six viewed group sex with the alleged victim as an initiation rite Despite the acquittal of the

mal investigation of Lam-

beth's policies and practices in

order to "to minimise the risk of a similar occurrence in the

The ruling added that Mr D'Souza had been the victim

of "shameful" treatment by the

council. "In the experience of

this court, this is the worst

case of unlawful race discrimi-

nation that it has ever had to

consider. Furthermore, there

is no reported case which

shows such persistend dis-crimination against one indi-

Sir Herman Ouseley, chair-

man of the Commission for

Racial Equality, which backed

Mr D'Souza's case, said: "Em-

ployers must actively seek to

eliminate discrimination from their employment practices.

ensure that they are providing

equality of opportunity and

run effective and fair disciplin-

beth council said yesterday that Ms Rabbatt had told the

tribunal that Lambeth had

been in an "appalling mess" at the time of Mr D'Souza's

dismissal and that none of the people involved in his sacking

The council is considering

an appeal against the way in

which Mr D'Souza's award

remained with the council.

A spokeswoman for Lam-

ary procedures."

record from the trial was a culture of heavy drinking and extrovert behaviour that will be prohibited under a code of ethical conduct that is to be distributed to every soldier and officer before the end of the year.

Senior officers, who were said to have been shocked by what emerged during the trial, were adamant yesterday that the men's behaviour was

Neo-Nazi

military service. The Army already has discipline and standards guidelines, drawn up by the Adjutant-General, which spell out behaviour that could lead to disciplinary action, including bullying, ra-cial and sexual harassment. drunkenness, drug abuse. and adultery within the mili-

tary community. The lurid emerged from the trial will be

army authorities when they decide whether disciplinary action should be taken against the six officers. Based on the standards required of an officer, there seems little chance of any of them being allowed to stay in the Army. One officer said: "That they

will go is cut and dried. There is zero tolerance for unacceptable behaviour like this. They are almost certain to be

# **Junior officers** told friends any case could ruin careers

AS THE weeks passed, the six junior officers believed they would never be charged with rape. All were ambitious for advancement in the Army, and confided to colleagues that any court case could finish their careers.

Through friends, they knew that the woman was threatening to go to police, but it was nearly six months before Ministry of Defence police arrived with arrest warrants.

In the early hours of December 3 last year, Captain Phillip Bates, of Havana Company of the Royal Electrical and Me-chanical Engineers, was summoned from the mess to his commanding officer's room at the Bordon garrison in Hampshire. Within hours, the others had been arrested at three other military establishments. including Sandhurst, where cadets Nicholas Oettinger and Andrew Stout were enrolled.

Captain Ian Barlow, the son of a former REME major, was the last to be picked up at his barracks, at Catterick in Yorkshire. Most stood in stunned silence when told the charge. Lieutenant Darren Bartlett

asked: "Am i the only one arrested?" He had followed his father, Frank, into the Army. He was proud of being the son of a career soldier who spent 22 years in the Royal Artillery, rising to captain. The family live in Gosport. A schoolfriend. John Ridley. said: "Darren was always keen to impress his father and follow him into the Army. Of all of us, he was the least likely to do anything like this."

He was among the four in this group who was a student at Welbeck, the MoD's sixthform college at Worksop, Nottinghamshire, which prides itself on taking only the most accomplished applicants with scientific backgrounds.

Another was Matthew Tupling, a fire officer's son and gifted sportsman, who went to Welbeck from the Danum School in Doncaster, Yorkshire, as one of the too ten pupils in his year. His deputy head there, Alan Mendum. described him as "a very

on that he wanted to join the Army. He earned the respect of all the staff here." Tupling admitted during

questioning that he urinated on the woman in a sauna, but said he did not rape her: "I am an officer for God's sake integrity and all that." Tupling's father, David, said: "I was disgusted when I was told the details. Nevertheless, I believe it should never have been brought to court.'

Captain Ian "Harry" Barlow, 29, is attached to the Army Air Corps, 662 Squadron. A graduate of Shriven-ham in 1991, he was a close friend of Phillip Bates and Matthew Tupling. The three met serving in Germany in 1992, where they formed the Triathlon Club drinking group. He served in Bosnia.

#### THE SIX MEN

and was visiting his friends when the incident took place. His father Peter, 53, and mother, Sylvia, have lived near Corby, Northamptonshire, for about four years.

In Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, where Andrew Stout. grew up and attended Whickham comprehensive school, neighbours said the case forced his separated mother, Pamela, to move house. She told friends she could not face those who knew her, and bought a house six miles away. Her son told police that he found group sex a weird and sombre

experience. Phillip Bates, born in Scunthorpe, told police: "I am a typical sexist bloke." He admitted trying to persuade the girl to wear handcuffs taken from the garage of his father. Michael, who was a policeman in Lincolnshire.

Nicholas Oettinger, 20. grew up in Wiltshire. An earlier hearing was told that he was seeking a medical discharge. That is now likely to be refused. Army sources said. His father. David. of Preston, is a former landlord of the Red Lion Inn. in West

# Asian wins £350,000 for council's race bias

By Alexandra Frean, local government correspondent

won-record damages of more than £350,000 yesterday in what was described as the worst case of persistent racial discrimination ever to go be-

Don D'Souza, 62, won the award at the end of a marathon legal bank which started eight years ago after he com-plained to his employers at Lambeth council. South London, of racial discrimination.

'After his victory. Mr D'Souza criticised the council for wasting taxpayers money by trying to "defend the indefensible". Had Lambeth acted prop-

erly at the beginning and reinstated me at an early stage, the financial loss they imposed on me would have been far smaller. I would have been able to continue contributing to services for the people of Lambeth through my cho-sen career," he said:

Mr D'Souza started to work for Lambeth in March 1986, and was dismissed in January 1990 after he had complained internally of racial discrimination. He subsequently won-five industrial tribunal hearings into his treatment by the

One hearing awarded him £8,925 damages under the Employment Protection Consolidation Act, which imposes

AN ASIAN computer operator a oriling on payouts. In the council chief executive, it latest ruling, however, the Employment Appeals Tribunal said that he was, in fact, entitled to a payout under the Race Relations Act, for which there is no ceiling. It calculated his award at £358,288.73 for

loss of his job and pensions Mr D'Souza's original complaint was that he was denied promotion because of his race. He said be was subsequently victimised by the council simply because he had taken his complaint to an industrial tribunal and was seen as a trouble-maker who had cost

his employers a lot of money. In its ruling, the tribunal said yesterday that but for an unreserved apology from Heather Rabbatt, the present



jailed over race hate magazine By STEWART TENDLER would have requested a for-

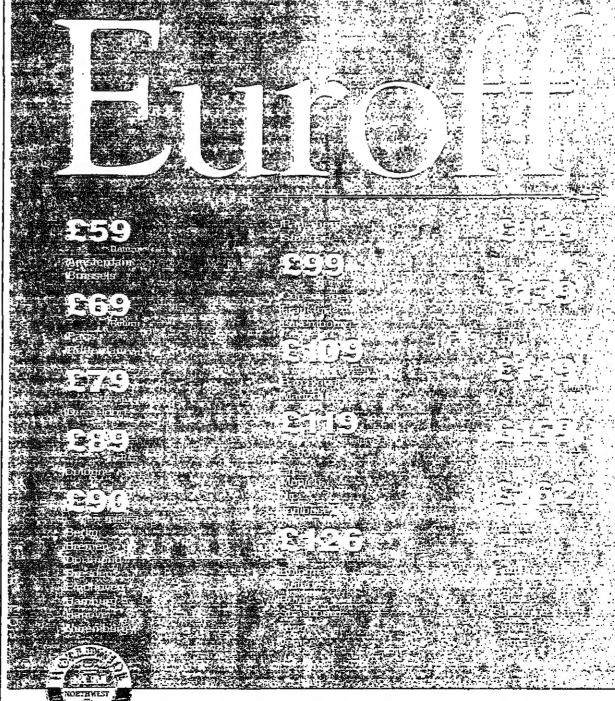
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER National Front by-election candidate who planned to "destroy society" by inflaming race hatred and violence with a neo-Nazi magazine was jailed for 18 months

Robin Gray, 35, who stood for election in Hounslow, West London, in the 1980s, was discovered by police with hundreds of copies of a magazine called Stormer published by the Combat 18 group. The magazine was linked to a hate campaign against the boxer Frank Bruno's mother and other targets including the Liberal Democrat leader Pad-

dy Ashdown. Gray, of Stanwell, West London, was jailed for 12 months at Southwark Crown court for two counts of possessing "threatening, abusive or insulting" material with a view to distributing it and stirring up racial hatred. At the time of the offences Gray was on licence from a threeyear prison term imposed for a "fascist skinhead" attack on a policeman. The judge ordered he should serve the

remaining six months. Last month Gray's former landlord, Mark Atkinson, 31, from Egham, Surrey, pleaded and was jailed for 21 months.



# BA to change smoke hoods for Sikhs

BY JOANNA BALE

BRITISH Airways agreed yesterday to review the design of smoke hoods for cabin crew after two Sikhs claimed racial discrimination when they were rejected as stewards because of their beards and

Narinder Singh Roath and Satvinder Sandhu were told that they would have to trim their beards and be willing to remove their turbans in the event of a fire in order to be able to wear the smoke hoods. Cabin crew are not allowed to have long beards because facial hair interferes with the seals around the neck and mouth which safeguard them against toxic fumes.
The two men withdrew their claim of

racial discrimination at an industrial tribunal yesterday after BA agreed to attempt to develop new smoke hoods, which can be worn by people with beards and turbans, in collaboration with the Civil Aviation Authority and the Health and Safety Executive.

The Drager safety hoods, distributed to all cabin crew, were introduced after the Manchester air crash in 1985, in which 54 people died. The hoods enable crew to fight fires on board. Pilots and passengers are issued with oxygen masks. Andrew Clarke, QC, for BA, told the hearing in London: "The Drager hood goes over the whole face. The difficulties are obvious and the difficulties are accepted by experts on both sides of this case. Facial hair which interrupts those

two seals is impermissible, whether it is worn by a Sikh or anyone else." The agreement reached between BA

and Mr Sandhu, 24, of Warley, Birmingham, who now works for a marketing firm, and Mr Singh Roath, 27, now a civil servant, also states that the company will report its findings to the Commission for Racial Equality within six months.

Manjit Gill, representing the two men, said they believed the company had not done all it could to employ Sikhs. "We hope a positive development will occur as a result of this case and that those responsible for developing hoods and safety equipment will do so to allow more Sikhs to wear them."

Photograph. page 32

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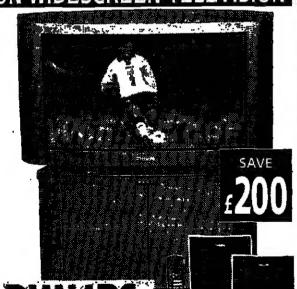
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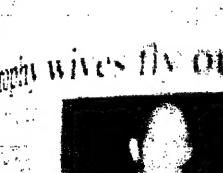
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A DISCERNING elite has decided that culture and calcio — Italian for football — are the perfect mix for a long weekend and has swelled the ranks of fans attending England's crucial match with Italy

For thousands of English supporters. Rome will only be glimpsed between the airport and the stadium where World Cup qualifying dreams could be won or lost.

But hundreds more are combining the game with visits to Rome's galleries, museums, and shops. Seven members of the Islington Lab-our Party, former neighbours of Tony Blair, arrived yesterday and hope to visit Rome's galleries tomorrow. The art lover's list includes works by Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci at the Vatican Museum, Bernini at the Museo Borghese, and Etruscan treasures at the Villa Giulia.

To avoid the huge demand for hotel space - Rome is fully booked on Saturday night the seven have hired an apartment in the city. Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown,

are also to attend the match. For others the game is an occasion around which to build a romantic weekend. Clive Thompson, 43, a management consultant and An elite band of fans are to pay their mobilised today in full rior gear and all leave has been cancelled. An entra 1,500 offirespects to Italy's finest artists as well

as to football, writes Richard Duce

husband is on his own as far

Alan Smith, 37, a restaurant

manager, arrived at his hotel

on the Via Veneto yesterday with his wife Debbie, 31, from Worthing, West Sussex. The

couple have spent £350 each

for a three-night stay. While

Mr Smith has a ticket for the match, his wife is happy to

watch it on television. She

said: "I plan to see the sights in

Rome and perhaps do some

serious shopping.\*

At the Stadio Olimpico, where the match kicks off

tonight, Italian touts were

offering £80 tickets for £120.

However, police insist that

anyone who is obviously an

English supporter will not be

allowed into sections of the

ground which have been allo-

Police in Rome also revealed

yesterday that they will be

using a helicopter above the

stadium with a direct video

link to their control room. It

means police can be mobilised

within minutes to any poten-

tial flashpoint between oppos-

cated for Italians.

as the match is concerned."



Well, he's got to be around

"sizeable chunk" in four days away with his wife Margaret at a £150-a-night hotel.

The couple first came to Rome ten years ago on their honeymoon and Mrs Thompson has no intention of seeing the game. "I want to see the Titians at the National Gallery and the statues at the cers from outside Rome have also been drafted in.

هكذامن الإمل

The majority of the 10,000 England supporters are ex-pected in Rome on flights this morning. Some 2,000 of them have signed up for "executive packages", which include a match ticket, flights and a night in a hotel for £469.

Five British police officer from the National Criminal Intelligence Service in London are in Rome to help the Italian police spot any potential troublemakers who are known to have previous convictions relating to football. They estimate that between 600 and 700 fans could be swept along by any trouble, but that only 60 or 70 without tickets will be looking for confrontation. Last night only four English supporters had been arrested for drink-related offences.

Superintendent George Robinson, of West Yorkshire Police, who is heading the British liaison operation, said last night: "We don't want people to spoil what should be wonderful evening for everyone, particularly as England is hoping to stage the World

Leading article, page 23



#### Digger firms fined for fatal accident

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

TWO plant hire companies found guilty of contributing to a road accident in which five people were killed by the arm of a digger were fined a total of £425,000 yesterday. The victims died when

the arm swung out as the digger was carried on a low loader, tearing off the roofs of four cars coming in the opposite direction at Castle-an-Dinas near Newquay, Cornwall.

The judge at Truro Crown Court said there had been a "complete dereliction of duty" by the companies. Bazeley Plant Hire, of St Columb, Cornwall, and its parent company, Chepstow Plant Hire, of Chepstow, were convicted of failing to ensure people were not exposed to risks to their

The accident happened in December 1995 on a narrow, unlit road because the driver of the low loader failed to pin the arm of the digger or secure it with chains. Judge Graham Cottle said most of the blame must go to Bazeley Plant Hire because it was their responsibility to see that the driver was supervised. That week he had worked 71 hours.

The driver, Mark Wade, 31, who was found guilty of five charges of causing death by dangerous driving, had no safety training and told the court he worked 16 hours without a break on the day of the accident. He is to be sentenced next month.

The judge said: "Elementary and basic safety procedures were ignored and there was a total failure to instruct, train or supervise an employee, It was a complete dereliction of duty." He fined Bazeley Plant Hire £250,000 and ordered the company to pay £45,000 costs. Chepstow Plant Hire was fined £175.000 and ordered to pay £30,000 costs.

# Trophy wives fly out for a Debs' ball

AND DANIEL MCGRORY

FLEET of planes will fly to Rome today bearing England's ultimate weapon to intimidate the Italians: a bevy of footballers' trophy wives. Several are called Debbie.

Their mission is the psycho logical intimidation of the Italian squad, who have been grimly preparing in an isolated hotel on a mountain in Tuscany. A Football Association source said: "We want to make them think that England are relaxed, enjoying ourselves and preparing for a

big family party."

They will be backed by reinforcements of proud parents armed with anecdotesabout their sons' school foot-



Ian Wright with his wife Debbie, who will be in Rome

wives, girlfriends, parents, brothers and sisters on 50 aeroplanes. Staff working for Glenn Hoddle have spent 48 hours booking footballers' loved ones on to empty seats

carrying scores of officials They have struggled to find hotel rooms, as Rome is also hosting a conference of 2,000

The women flying to Italy

of lan, and Debbie Rodgers, fiancée of David Seaman. Gary and Phil Neville's parents will be there too. Local knowledge will be provided by Clare Ince, wife of Paul, an Italian hand from the days when her husband played for Among the absentees is the

ultimate trophy girlfriend, David Beckham's Victoria Adams, who uses the professional sobriquet "Posh Spice". She will be rehearsing for a concert in Istanbul.

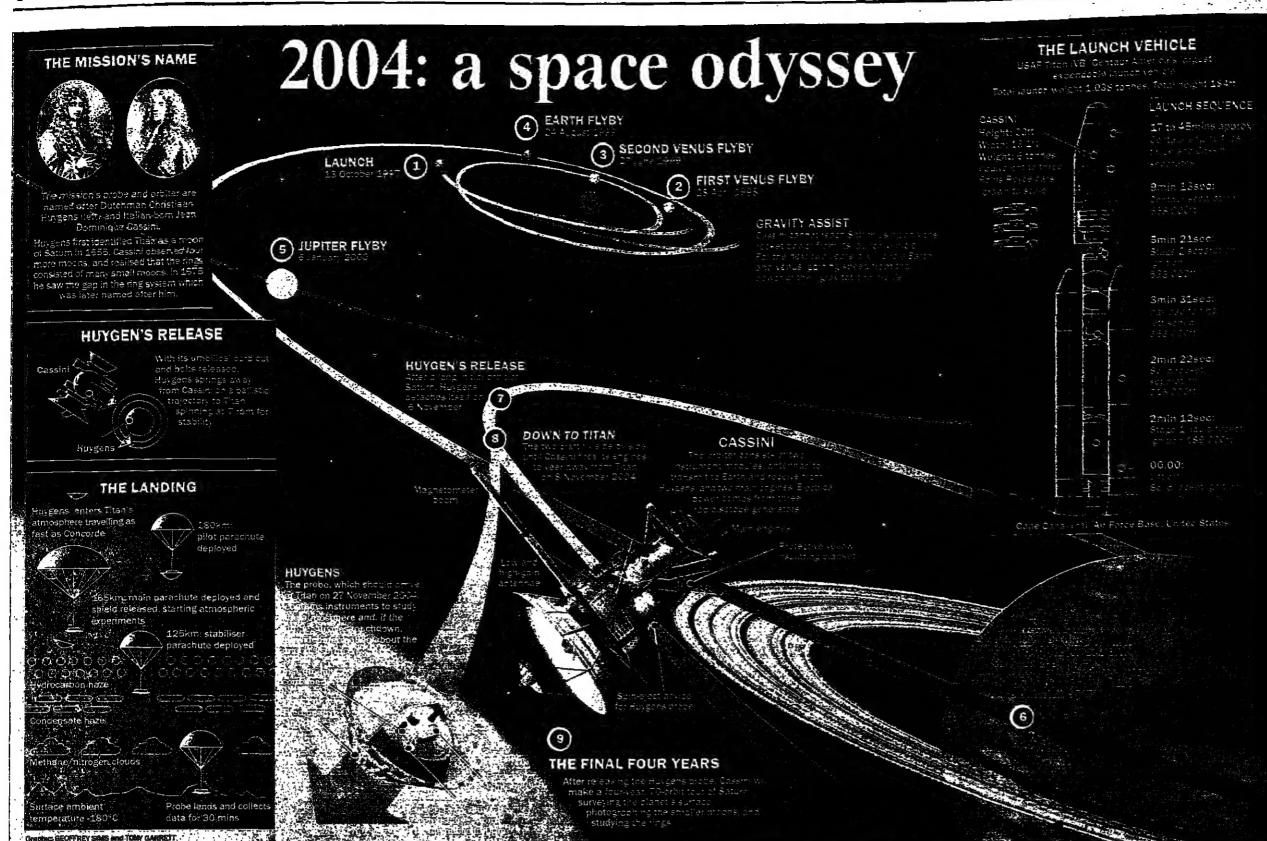
The FA was inspired by the Ryder Cup wives whose glamorous presence on the greens was regarded as a vital morale booster helping the Euro-peans to retain the trophy. The English soccer women will be given prominent seats



and other TSB group companies if we think they'd interest you.



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IT IS being billed as the last great space mission of the 20th century (Nick Nuttall, technology correspondent, writes). On Monday the Cassini Huygens mission will blast off from Cape Canaveral on a two-billion-mile voyage to Saturn and its giant moon, Titan.

pean and American venture, aims to gather more knowledge on the ringed planet and unravel the mysteries of Titan, which is shrouded in foggy clouds. Its surface and atmosphere have intrigued scientists for years: they believe the moon resembles a deepfrozen Earth of 4.5 billion years ago.

before life evolved. The Huygens probe, with instruments from the University of Kent, the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology, will parachute through the atmosphere, hitting the surface after 135 minutes. The probe may then operate for up to an

hour, beaming information to the Cassini craft. The probe has a force sensor beneath, which, it is hoped, will beam back whether the surface is sandy or gravelly, or sticky from organic compounds. Ralph Lorenz, a European Space Agency engineer, said: "If the probe lands in a hydrocarbon sea, it will

float, and accelerometers will measure it wave heights. A small sonar will measure the depth of the sea."

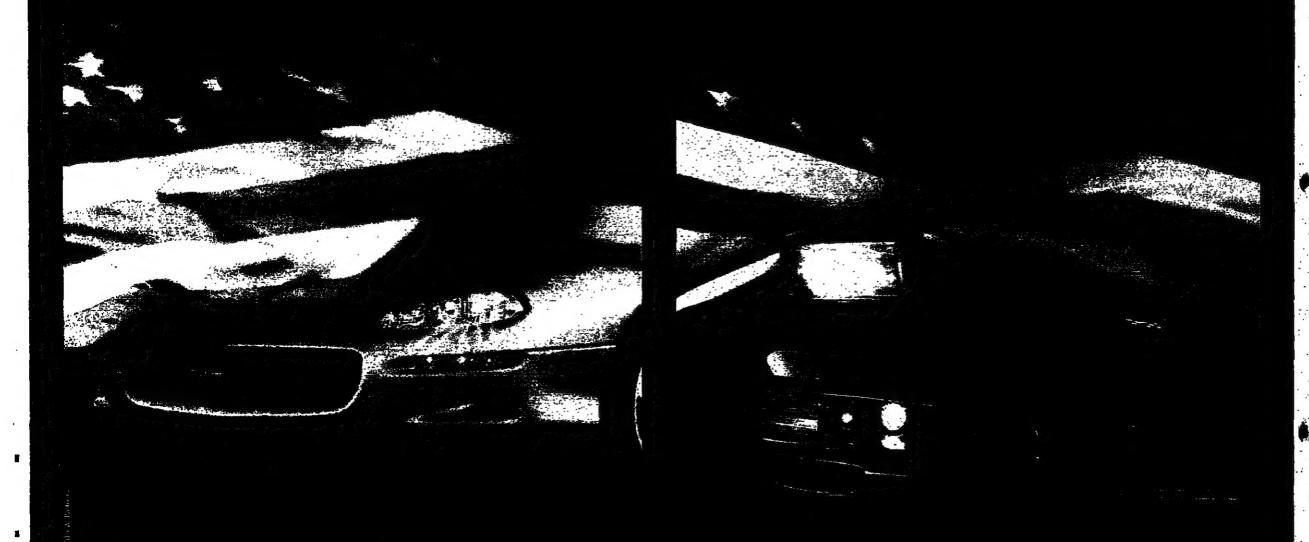
Some clues to the moon's environment

have come from Voyager missions of the early 1980s, and more recently from ground-based radar, the Hubble space telescope and more powerful optical

telescopes. These indicate that some of the complex organic chemicals which may have led to the evolution of life on Earth are on Titan. They include hydrogen cyanide, a building block of tife. Its air, like Earth's, is made up mainly of nitrogen. But, unlike Earth, it also contains methane.

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HARRO

A FARM worker who held a shotgun to his crippled moth-er's head while she pulled the trigger walked free from court

Janet Pitman, 75, had re-peatedly begged her son, Peter, to help her out of her misery after suffering years of agony from rheumatoid ar-thritis. On an early summer's evening in May the pair hugged farewell in a field 200 yards from the home they shared in the village of Charlton Mackrell, near Yeovil, Somerset. Moments

later, Mrs Pitman was dead. A judge showed mercy, giving Peter Pitman a ninemonth prison sentence suspended for two years. Pitman, 46, who called the police straight after the shooting. was originally charged with murder. But when the details emerged, the Crown Prosecution Service reduced it to aiding and abetting suicide.

Michael Brabin, for the defence, told Bristol Crown Court: "The night before she died she screamed in agony every half-hour. She was determined to take her life the

Man was faced with stark choice after witnessing

years of agony, reports Simon

de Bruxelles

next day and asked Mr Pitman to lend her his gun. He and his mother hugged each other for a long time. She got him to hold the gun for her and she pressed back the

Mr Brabin said Pitman had previously stopped his widrailway track near their home. She had threatened to do it again if he did not help her to

In the circumstances there Mr Brabin said: "She was a has to be a custodial sentence. strong-minded woman who but, due to the exceptional was determined on this occacircumstances, in my opinion is appropriate to suspend it sion to take her life. Mr Pitman had a difficult decision to make. He knew what he

After the hearing Mr Brabin said his client was too upset to talk. He said: "Mr Pitman is relieved. He has been under a terrific amount of strain over the last few months." Lily Shakespeare, owner of

was doing was against the "It was a matter of honour

which forced him to go through this macabre ritual.

He said to me. For my mother to have gone down to the railway track and to have been

found from here to Crewkerne

would have been a disgrace."

He added: "He had lived with his mother all his life and

looked after her. She was the

dominant one in the house

and she was obsessed with her

illness. Mrs Pitman had made

it abundantly clear that she had intended to take her life."

Since the killing Mr Pitman

had received the backing of his

family and villagers. Judge

John Foley told him: "I accept

you were left with a stark choice. I am told your mother

was screaming in agony the night before her death and I

am satisfed there is no risk of

you re-offending.

the village store in Charlton Mackrell, said: "I am very pleased for him. His mother used to come into the shop regularly. She was very fed up vith the quality of her life. When I first heard of her death, it was a terrible shock, but I am happy he's gone free. I'm sure he only had his



Luca Cumani surveys the burnt-out loft of his stables after the second fire in as many days early yesterday

# Top stables hit by mystery fires

ONE of the country's leading flat racing trainers, Luca Cumani, has suffered two mystery arson attacks at his stables in Newmarker within 24 hours.

The 48-year-old trainer, his wife Sarah and three neighbouring trainers coaxed rightened horses out of their stables to safety as flames ripped through the loft early yesterday. The alarm was raised by a neighbour who had heard a man running down the lane shouting for help.

The first fire, which broke out around 9am on Thursday, had destroyed the roof of a stable yard adjacent to Bedford House. Mr Cumani, who trained the jockey Frankie Dettori, a fellow Italian,

VISIT YOUR

owners, said: "I just couldn't believe it. Sarah and I brought the first three horses out from boxes under the loft that was burning. They were a bit frightened but perfectly all right. Then my head lad Jimmy Thompson and his wife arrived and we got another four out.

Neighbouring trainers Sean Woods, Willie Jarvis and Willie Haggas, Lester Piggott's father-in-law, appeared on the scene and lent a hand. The fire brigade arrived and brought it under control."

Mr Cumani said he was saddened by the fires and had feared for both his staff and the 120 horses in his care. "Nobody panicked, the horses were frightened but none of them did anything silly. We have put the horses in empty boxes and proceeded to train as normal," he said. "We have a runner today and runners tomorrow and life is getting back as usual. Fire is not to be trifled with and the potential was very great but we are glad there have been no injuries."

The incident follows two fires within a week last month at the yard of the trainer Howard Johnson in Crook, Durham.

Mr Cumani's yard has been in top form this season. In the past 14 days from 23 runners, he has had seven winners and eight horses placed. This year he has won £953,000 prize money and had 59 winners a strike rate of 21 percent.

A 28-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the blazes.

THE SUNDAY TIMES Colonel Bob on Bosnia and love under fire



After keeping his emotions under wraps for three years while the dust settled on his controversial command in Bosnia,

Colonel Bob Stewart reveals what he wouldn't put on record in the past: the anecdotes, the anger - and the agony of falling in love under fire, far away from his wife and children . . . 9

IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

NOW ONLY

# French start mass DNA tests to find girl's killer

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE Breton village of Pleine Foundres witnessed France's vesterday in an effort to catch the killer of Caroline Dickinson, the British girl who was raped and murdered while staying in the local youth hostel on a school trip in July

ist year.
The tests were carried out at the town hall under the super vision of Renaud Van Ruymbeke, the judge who took over the murder investigation in August after appeals from Caroline's parents that the former investigating magistrate in charge of the rese istrate in charge of the case.

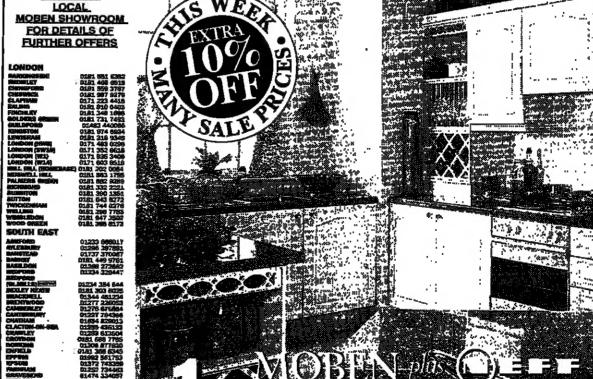
Gérard Zaug, be removed. He had refused to carry out been hanging over them

The 170 men of the village aged 15 to 35 were invited to attend the testing sessions which began yesterday and will continue until Sunday night. Under French law, cannot be forced to submit to DNA testing and investigators emphasised yesterday that pressure would not be put on those who did not volunteer.

The testing was carried out in an atmosphere of good humour with many in the community anxious to see the pall of suspicion that has

Not everyone, however, is in favour. The village awoke yesterday to find that the walls of the town hall had been daubed with the words "No to the 'liberticide' tests. Boycott." Members of the Anarchist Federation claimed

If the DNA tests are inconclusive, more tests in November will target men aged 35 to 55 in the village. Police say the killer of the 13-year-old knew the area and the hostel, making it likely he was local.

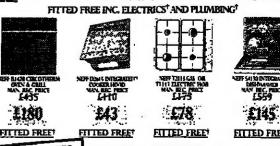




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Inishvickillane could fetch up to £2 million. Mr Haughey bought it in 1974 for £25,000 and spends eight weeks a year on the island, which forms part of the remote Blasket Islands, below, off the Kerry coast

# Haughey sells island to pay off his debts

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

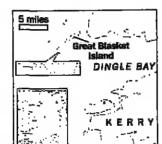
CHARLES HAUGHEY, the disgraced former trish Prime Minister, is selling his private island to pay substantial tax and legal bills incurred by a tribunal investigating his secret £1.3 million gift from a supermarket tycoon.

Mr Haughey is putting his most prized asset on the market to meet the massive bills he faces at the end of this month when the tribunal is to award costs against him.

He already faces a £1 million bill for non-payment of tax on the £1.3 million he received from Ben Dunne, the former chairman of Dunnes Stores retail chain. But even more financially crippling is millions of pounds, for his failure to co-operate with the tribunal. The sale of Inishvickillane, II miles off the Kerry coast, for between £1 million and £2 million will go some way towards meeting those

former Fianna Fail Prime Minister bought the island in 1974 for about £25,000. It forms part of the Blasket Islands and was once home to a community of monks, who left stone relics on the island.

According to a regular visitor to the island, Inishvickillane has a stone-clad threebedroom house, a run-down cottage and a ruined church. It has a helicopter landing area.



Haughey's 50ft ketch, a small jetty for dinghies and its own electrical generator. For most

The island has two dozen red deer. Mr Haughey also began a breeding programme to raise the numbers of the rare sea eagle in Ireland. He

he has erected a handrail to assist people climbing from the jetty to the house.

Political sources said that the island, one mile long by half a mile wide, was being placed on the international market in the hope of attracting buyers from Germany and the United States.

Mr Haughey is being forced relinquish the island against his wishes. He spends about eight weeks a year there on his own or with family and close friends. François Mitterrand, the late French President, was among the visitors.

One source said Mr Haughey recently described himself as living through "miserable times". Last week. he laid off five employees on his north Dublin estate to



Haughey's repeated denials of

criticis

who chaired the tribunal that sat for 19 days earlier this year in Dublin Castle, is expected to demand later this month that Mr Haughey pay a large part of the fees in-curred for the investigation into Mr Dunne's payments to politicians.

The costs of the tribunal have not yet been set, but legal sources involved in the case suggest that it will run into several million pounds, some of which will have to be met by Mr Haughey.

Mr Haughey, unlike all the other participants in the tribu-nal, is unlikely to have his

Haughey's lack of co-operaof his failure to co-operate. The tribunal incurred massive additional costs, including a trip to the Cayman Islands to incredible" A second tribunal has been examine off-shore accounts, and two days' hearing in London because of Mr

'Townies' blamed for threat to fair

receiving E1.3 million from Mr Dunne between 1987 and 1991. However, the tribunal uncovered such strong evidence against Mr Haughey that he was forced in July to admit the donation. He tried to absolve himself of any responsibility for the money by blaming his former accountant. But in a

tion and dismissed his evidence to the tribunal as "quite

set up by the Government to establish if any further illegal or secretive payments were made to Mr Haughey. The former Prime Minister,

man of humble origins, denies that his mansion, private island, racehorses and ketch are indicative of a lavish life. He told the tribunal that his busy work schedule left no room for "an extravagant lifestyle". Journalists who asked damning indictment, Judge him about his wealth were

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### A decade on the run in the sun

An escaped prisoner has been brought back to Britain after spending II years in Florida. Michael Jackson, 46, hadbeen serving an 18-month sentence for conspiracy to smuggle Krugerrands into Britain when he escaped from Rudgate prison, near Leeds, in 1986.

He was taken yesterday to a police station at Newcas upon Type for questioning Jackson, originally from Birtley, near Gateshead, had been living under a faise name in Orlando until a tipoff this summer. Northumbria Police arranged his deportation.

#### Portrait restored

The portrait of Myra Hindley, damaged three weeks ago when a protester splattered it with ink, has gone back on display at the Royal Academy. The painting has been put behind Perspex to protect it from further attacks.

#### Scout tents safe

Fears that scouts' tents bought from the Ministry of Defence in 1993, may have been contaminated chemicals suspected of causing Gulf War syndrome are unfounded, the Armed Forces Minister John Reid said.

#### Four charged

Four teenagers have been remanded in custody for a week by magistrates in Rich-mond, southwest London, charged with attacking Daniel Moore, 12, a policeman's son. Daniel is still being treated for head injuries.

#### Yachts damaged

Coastguards have been checking for casualties after a boat collided with a line of moored yachts, sinking one and damaging another. The vessels on the River Orwell near Ipswich were hit by a coaster with six people on board.

#### DJ browned off

Simon Mayo's Radio I show was forced off the air yesterday after smoke from burning toast three floors above the London studios forced the building to be evacuated. Taped music filled the gap until Mayo returned.

more new people here than Priddy people and that is causing the problem. The fair

The parish council clerk, Judith Pea-cock, said: "It is the same as when people

come to a village and complain about the

cows mooing." But one relatively recent

arrival, who asked not be named, said: "It

can be intimidating when there are so

many strangers around."

is an important part of village life."

# **LMV**

# pixies gonetoheaven



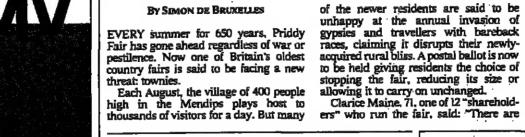
#### DEATH TO THE PIXIES

"The flaest off its mocker American rock band of the last decade" (\*\*\*\*\* The Guardian) mease their long everdue collection of "pure electric sith" (Melody Maker) on Sin October Pixies were sa bivepoint for Minyana and Grunge" (Guardian Guide) and sit, unchallenged, atthe "epicentre of todie tobsic as we know it" (Select)

This standing package includes 17 of their fatest moments. Very conted edition vinyl and CD sets "feature an entire live concert by the band at the punacie of their career

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# **Nation votes** from the heart

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

simple sonnet written by Eliz-abeth Barrett Browning for her husband - has been voted the public's favourite love poem in a poll conducted

Barrett Browning, who defied her father to elope with Robert Browning in 1846, was the clear winner from the shortlist, which included Shakespeare, W.B. Yeats, Ted Hughes and Robert Burns. The survey was carried out to mark National Poetry Day. Stop All the Clocks (Song

9). the oration by W.H. Auden which was popularised in the funeral scene of the film Four Weddings and a Funeral, emerged as the nation's third favourite love poem.

Barrett Browning's poem is sonnet 43 from Sonnets from the Portuguese which appeared in her Poems published in 1850. A spokesman for the BBC's

education department said surprisingly few pop song lyrics were voted for, and only Leonard Cohen, Bob Geldof and Marc Almond registered in the survey. The two best-

HOW Do I Love Thee? - the known living poets in the top 30 were Adrian Henri and Adrian Mitchell

Last year's BBC poll to find the nation's favourite postwar poem was won by Jenny Joseph's Warning. The previous year's poll for the most popular poem of all time was Rudyard Kipling's If.

☐ The Top 20: L How Do I Love Thes? Elizabeth Barrett Browning, 2. He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven, W.B. Yeats; 3. Stop All the Clocks (Song 9), W.H. Auden; 4. A Red, Red Rose, Robert Burns; Let Me Not to the Marriage of True Minds (Sonnet 116), Shake speare; 6. To his Cop Mistress, Andrew Marvell; 7. Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day! (Sonnet 18). Shakespeare: 8. Remember, Christina Rossetti; 9. Renouncement, Alice Meynell; 10. When You are Old and Full of Sleep, W.B. Years: II. The Good Morrow, John Donne; 12. A Subaltern's Love Song. Sir John Betje-man; 13. A Fond Kiss, Robert Burns; 14. Jenny Kissed Me, Leigh Hunt: 15. Love's Philosophy, Percy Shelley, 16. The Sun Rising, John Donne: 17. Code Poem for the A Birthday, Christina Rossetti; 19. The Passionate Shepherd to his Love, Christopher Marlowe, 20. The Confirmation, Edwin Muir.

#### How Do I Love Thee?

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. l love thee to the depth and breadth and height

My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight For the ends of Being and ideal Grace. love thee to the level of everyday's

Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight. I love thee freely, as men strive

I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
I love thee with the passion put

In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith. I love thee with a love I seemed With my lost saints. - I love

thee with the breath. Smiles, tears, of all my life! and, if God choose. I shall but love thee better

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Africa scarred by relentless grip of admine plague



# Jewels of the Crown dazzle Pakistan elite

THE Queen dazzled Pakistan this week with her jewels, some of which she rarely wears. In a country where gold about the neck, wrists and ankles is a calculated boast of wealth — and must never be less than 22 carat — her expensive adornments left a lasting impression.

In India too, wealthy women drape gold about themselves, some of it big and vulgar but nevertheless a badge of high position in society. To carry 20 years of a labouring man's wages about the neck in one chunk of ornate gold is not deemed tacky by the elite in either India or Pakistan, two of the world's poorest nations. It is merely a statement of rank.

At the state banquet given

At the state banquet given by President Leghari, one of Pakistan's richest feudal landlords, the Queen wore a diamond tiara with a huge emerald, set off by a matching necklace. She was more dazzling than the crystal chandeliers that dangle over the vast halls of the Presidential Palace, and not a woman in the place could have failed to cast

In a nation where gold is a badge of wealth, the Queen has made heads turn, Christopher Thomas writes

an appraising eye upon her jewels. She also wore the sash of the Nishan-e-Pakistan (Order of Pakistan), the highest civilian award, which the

President had given her.

The Queen has perhaps a dozen tiaras, some inherited, some received as gifts. One of the Royal Family's least popular is known as the Family Tiara, usually worn by young

royals when they come of age and do not have a tiara of their own. Princess Margaret used it before buying her own from Christie's. The Queen has always valued the impact of her tiaras, which enable her to outshine even the most jeweldraped filmstar.

Her jewellery, like her many trunks of other possessions flown out from London

#### Lahore children sing greeting

Lahore: Singing children greeted the Queen with rose petals when she visited their school in the Pakistani city of Lahore yesterday. She arrived at Christ Church primary school in the same Rolls-Royce she used when she last visited Pakistan in 1961

visited Pakistan in 1961. Two mentally handicapped boys held up hand-lettered

paper signs which read "God bless Pakistan" and "God bless the Queen". The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will rest for the weekend in the former hill station of Murree, near Islamabad,

where they will attend church

tomorrow. They arrive in

Delhi later tomorrow for a

week-long state visit to India.

was hauled around Pakistan this week guarded by the Army — a more honest and reliable institution than the police. Airport officials stared in wonder at all the boxes. "This is all for just one week?" one asked, and whistled.

At a dinner in Lahore Fort

given by Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, the Queen wore a brooch containing a large round sapphire surrounded by diamonds. This is one of the finest pieces in her collection. It was owned by the Tsarina Marie Pyodorovna, sister of Queen Alexandra, wife of Edward VII. The Tsarina, mother of Nicholas II, the last Tsar, passed this and other valuables to her daughter. But the brooch made its way to Queen Mary after the Tsarina's death. Queen Elizabeth wore it during her visit to Russia in 1994.

Wealthy women in India, perhaps even more fond of adorning themselves in gold than Pakistani women, will check to see if the Queen treats local high society to a spectacle as splendid as the one she gave across the border.

# Africa scarred by relentless grip of landmine plague

WAR leaves many scars, both physical and psychological, but with patience and care most people can recover. But landmines rob survivors of any hope of leaving the battle-field behind.

From Somalia to Angola to Zaire and Rwanda, the "perfect soldiers" have been sown randomly across a war-torn continent and will continue to maim and kill for decades to come. They will reinforce terrible dreams, haunting those who have suffered. The banning of the production and use of landmines in most countries this year, recognised with the Nobel Peace Prize for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, and Jody Williams, its American co-ordinator, will go some way towards ending the

threat.

Like anyone who has witnessed a conflict. I have had many encounters with mines and will join millions of people in congratulating the campaign on its award. But until mines are removed from Africa's grasslands it will be difficult for millions of

for threat 10%



Williams: awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

The Nobel prize
for landmine
campaigners is a
small step towards
making an entire
continent safe,
writes Sam Kiley

people to rebuild their countries with any confidence.

tries with any confidence.

Until one has seen the damage that they do and their entirely random targets, it is difficult to understand fully the deep terror that their sowing causes. I have been lost at night on remote roads in Somalia and simply prayed that I would survive a 30 mile journey past trucks, buses, cars and bicycles shattered by landmine explosions.

In Cuito, central Angola,

city I noted an anti-personnel mine explosion every 45 minutes. Unexploded mortar bombs, stuck in the tarmac with their fins pointing at the sky, seemed like benign friends compared to mines. Seven months later, swinging round a corner on a dirt track in Rwanda, I nearly rammed two trucks from the Rwandan Patriotic Front which had been destroyed by anti-tank mines. The vehicle in front of me pulled forward just two yards and was blown to pieces, its driver thrown

through the windshield.

My party was then ambushed, but the clatter of light arms could not compare with the shattering explosion of a mine designed to rip apart 60 tonnes of steel.

Wherever I am, I step from concrete on to grass with a sharp intake of breath. But this irrelevant neurosis is but a tiny part of the absolute terror which infects the heart of almost every Angolan farmer, every peasant in eastern Congo and every nomad in the Horn of Africa.

# Peace prize gives 'voice to victims'

By Peter Capelia in geneva and Our Foreign Staff

THE International Campaign to Ban Landmines yesterday welcomed the award of the Nobel Peace Prize as giving new strength to the voice of smaller countries, victums of a daily "silent massacre".

The prize announcement was widely welcomed, particularly in countries suffering a legacy of landmines from internal wars. Brandishing the artificial limb of a seven-year-old Cambodian girl, Suzan Walker, a leading member of the Campaign, vowed to keep up the pressure to get more countries to join a ban on antipersonnel landmines in Ottawa in December.

The Nobel Peace Prize will help us to convince recalcitrant nations like the United States, China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq: Stand on notice, you are on the wrong side of humanity if you do not sign." Mrs Walker said.

Campaigners say 70 people: are killed or mained by landmine explosions every day. More than 100 countries are ready to support a ban. Mrs Walker also paid tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, for raising public awareness, of the humanitarian problem of landmines: "What the victims are suffering, she brought that to the attention of the world public."

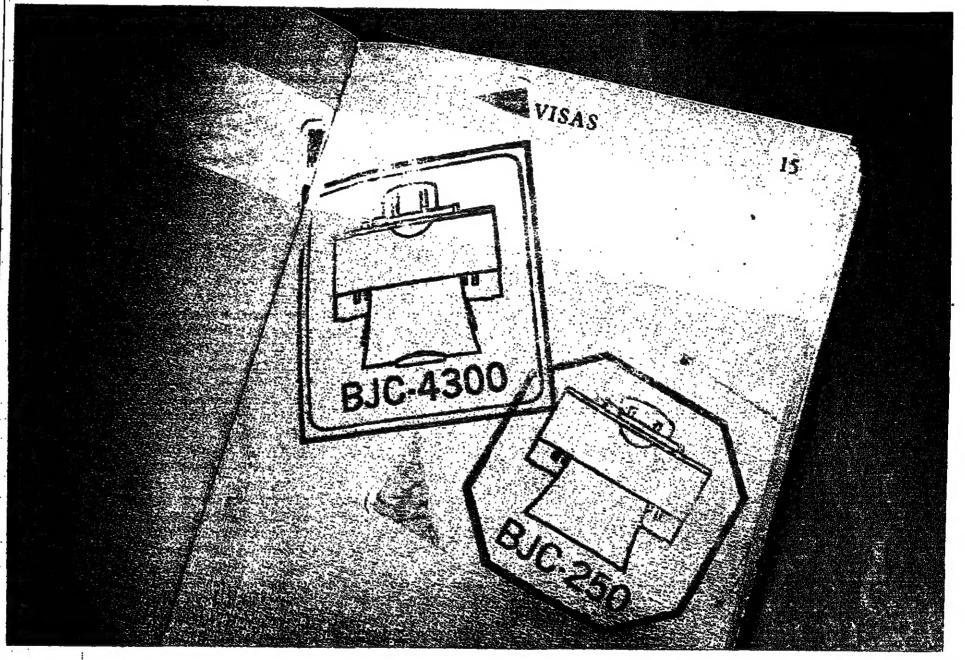
the world public."

Mine-clearing experts in Afghanistan, one of the world's most heavily mined countries, said yesterday that they were thrilled. The award was also applauded by Angolan landmine victims.

Alexander Ivanko, spokesman for the United Nations in Bosnia, said he said he hoped the prize would lead to an increase in funding to clear mines. Bajazit Suta, co-ordinator for demining the former frontline suburb of Dobrinja next to the Sarajevo airport praised the award.

Handicap International, a body which works to rehabilitate victims of anti-personnel landmines, halled the award as a turning-point in the drive to abalish the assessment.





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# Clubland acts to curb violence

Manchester's vibrant nightlife has been marred by a spate of random murders, reports Russell Jenkins

once the capital of Britain's youth culture, yesterday launched a fightback against violence that reached a bloody climax with the murders of two clubbers last weekend.

The city's clubs stopped the music to stage a minute's silence at midnight last night. Earlier city councillors had met senior police officers and club owners to discuss the

The talks were triggered by the double murder last Saturday night when Simon Speakman, 27, from Macclesfield, Cheshire, was kicked to death outside the Spice Cafe after he stepped in to help a girl involved in an argument over a bag of chips.

Twenty minutes later. yards away, Steven Hughes. 22, from Chorlton cum Hardy, was stabbed to death after

going to help a girl who was pushed to the ground in a row over cigarettes.

Manchester's city fathers are so alarmed that they met pub and dub owners and senior police officers at Manchester Town hall vesterday afternoon to draw up a strategy to counter the violence. In the past six months at least two others have died after incidents outside clubs. Sam Parle, 22, of Stretford, Greater Manchester, died after a fight outside the Fifth Avenue nightclub. A man has been charged with manslaughter.

Last night as the minute's silence was observed, Patrick Karney, chairman of the council's city centre committee. asked clubbers to use the time to reflect on what kind of city they want.





Steven Hughes, left; Simon Speakman, centre, and Sam Parle: killed near clubs

the country. But the Hacienda, the club that began it all, has closed under the hostile attention of the police, and the club scene has soured. Clubbers, 150,000 of whom head into Manchester each weekend to its 115 clubs, complain that an atmosphere of fear and intimidation envelops the city

There has been concern that

ed the employment of doormen. Gangs of thuggish youths, drunk or high on drugs, roam from one dub to another, forcing their way in and making violence an every-

Gary Marto, promoter of the city's premier Friday night 2Kinky at Holy City Zoo, has complained of yobs getting through the net. They are identified, he says, by a uni-

the 90F heat of the dancefloor.

He told City Life Magazine last week: "It wasn't a lack of ideas that brought the demise of the Hacienda and other clubs in that genre, it was actually the effect that the gangs have on nightclubs in Manchester."

Dave Hasiam, DJ at Yellow same listings magazine: "Sociorganised crime has infiltrat- form" of long winter overcoats ety's problems have become

clubland's problems in the same way as football has been marred in the past."

Both men were attending the meeting at the town half yesterday. They heard Mr Karney plead with the police for more officers on the best at nights in the city centre. He has asked for the closed-circuit television cameras to be linked to Bootle Street police station where officers can be sent out as soon as trouble begins to

Mr Karney is asking Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, for greater powers to combat the menace and more CCTV cameras. He wants the power. to ban convicted thugs from the city centre for life.

He told BBC Radio 4's Today: "A minority of young male adults have to examine their macho tribal behaviour because this is where these incidents come from This is Manchester, not America, and

we are going to sort this out." Two men, in separate cases, have been charged with the (The Boardwalk), told the murders of Mr Speakman and Mr Hughes. They have been

# MoD dismisses a private Britannia

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

dismissed as impractical by the Ministry of Defence yesterday, as the Government's decision not to replace Bri-

tannia came under attack. After yesterday's announcement by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, a se-nior MoD official said of the private consortiums' propos-als: "They effectively said we will build a cruise ship, you can use it for a few days a year and we'll call it a Royal

Running costs would amount to £5 million to £10 million a year, and the Government felt it was inappropriate to spend "substantial" public funds. British public funds. British

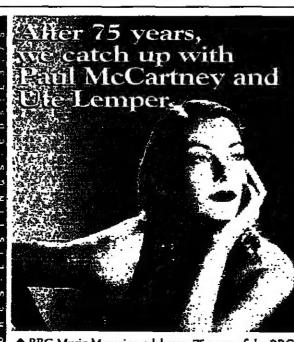
PRIVATE-sector plans to firms used *Britannia* on 60 build a new Royal Yacht were days between 1990 and 1996. days between 1990 and 1996.

A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said the Queen considered the decision not to replace or refurbish Britannia to be "understandable and appropriate". The ship's final location is to be decided before decommissioning on December II in Portsmouth.

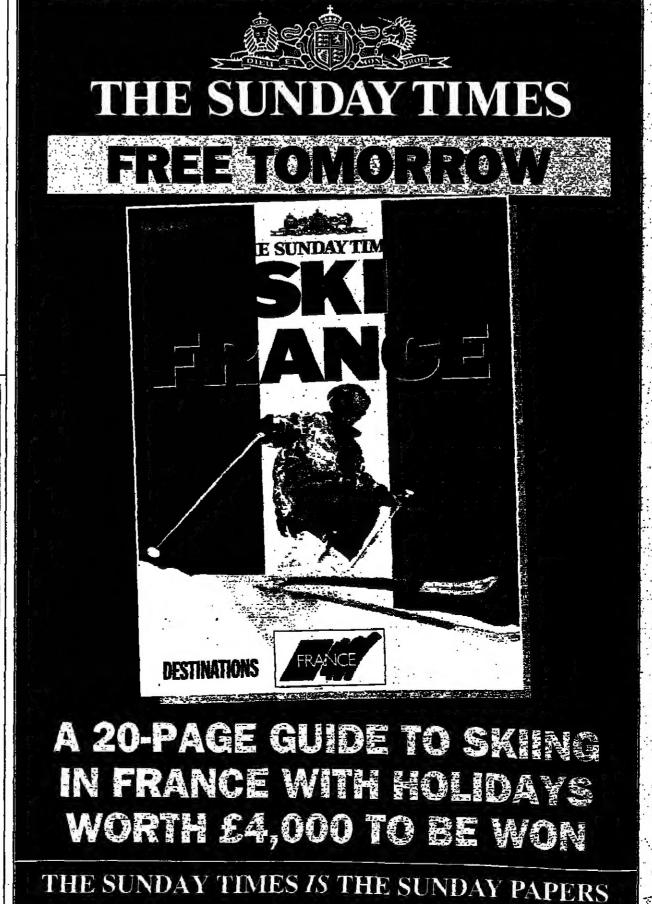
Lord Hurd of Westwell said he had seen at firsthand the "amazing impact" Britannia had abroad and the benefits it brought for business, adding: This is a mean and short-

☐ The cruise liner Canberra leaves Southampton tonight to end her life in a scrapyard in Pakistan, P&O Cruises





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# Hague the apologist clears party's decks

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

gy to the country yesterday for the Conservative Government taking it into the exchangerate mechanism was the culmination of a clearing-thedecks exercise in which former ministers have constantly preached the message that they made mistakes and must learn from them.

We had to slay the drag ons. Talking about the ERM in this way was the most dramatic way of doing it and you could hear the relief in the audience when he said it," a Tory strategist said. "This will help us to move on."

Relaxed and assured, Mr Hague delivered an hour-long speech that combined a lengthy statement of his personal credo with a withering attack on the "deeply unattractive cynicism" of Tony Blair's Government

He told them that while Labour's "politics without conscience" had initially prompt ed fascination, then admiration, it would ultimately breed

After a week that has gone better for the Conservatives and Mr Hague than they could have anticipated, he declared that they had achieved a new unity of purpose and conviction that would help them to rebuild the party and make it fit to return to govern at the next general election. He told them to "sharpen your swords" for the fight ahead, helped by a reform process that would

WILLIAM HAGUE'S apolo- "transform the world's oldest and most successful political party into a modern fighting force equipped for the battles of the 21st century

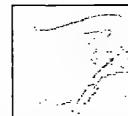
Mr Hague declared: "Never again will we have a divided organisation. Never again will the voice of our members go unheard and never again will we allow the good name of our party to be blackened by the greed and selfishness of a

The other central aim was to introduce Mr Hague to the wider public. His low poll rating is attributed by the Tories to the fact that for many people he remains unknown. So his speech was peppered with personal references to his upbringing, how he went to a comprehensive school in Rotherham, how his father ran a

small soft drinks company. He then gave them his own vision of Conservatism - com-

#### Light thrown on council work bill

William Hague was accused last night of being "Ill-in-formed" after claiming that a Labour-run council charged a children's home £514 to change 17 lightbulbs. John Fletcher, the leader of Coventry City Council, said: "Had he checked his facts he would know that the bill had been wrongly calculated, and that a bill for the correct amount



#### BLACKPOOL

bining his support for the traditional Tory values of freeenterprise, education self reliance and the nation with a strong emphasis on compassion, tolerance and obligation to others.

His democratic, popular Conservatism would listen with "compassion at its core". It would be rooted in tradition but embrace the future.

It would be "a changing Conservatism that acknowledges its mistakes". It was clear that his audi-

ence had yet to come to terms with his effort to transform the Tory image through giving it a caring heart. His statements that compassion was not a bolt-on extra to Conservarivism and that Britain could become the most compassionate society in the world were

It was a similar reaction when he hit out again at Lord Tebbit for his attack on multiculturalism. He said he was proud to be British "and so do hundreds of thousands of British blacks and British Asians. I want to see men and women from our ethnic miin the mainstream of our

On any issue at any time, Mr Blair was happy to say one thing and then do another. That's why we'll oppose them as new Labour. And that's why we'll beat them as new

"They don't believe in any-thing except their own political success". Mr Hague declared: Labour have lost their mora compass. They care most of all about what sounds good, what trips off the tongue, what plays well on the television bulletins and what gets a headline in tomorrow's

Labour had introduced "a new and deeply unattractive cynicism into British politics; a new cynicism that says it doesn't matter whether a policy is right or wrong, but only hether it can be sold to the

But they were much more at home with his attacks on Labour and his Euroscepticism. He was trying to con-trast his own beliefs and values, rooted in Tory traditions, with Labour's alleged lack of principles. "New Labour they're for everything but

Watching Labour in Gov-ernment had made clear:

British people," he said. He pleased them with his

affirmation of his belief in the United Kingdom and in a Europe of nation states. There is a limit to European integration and ... we are near that limit now." And they seemed happier with his sup-

# Hague's Hop Bitters

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If you th

Gingerette Black Beer

Pale Dry Ginger Ale

A poster showing the premises of the Hague family's soft-drinks business at Park Gate in Rotheram

# illiam and the fizzy pop factory

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE young William Hague learnt about commerce by watching over his father's shoulder as he ran the family business, distributing wine and the company's own-

brand fizzy drinks.

Nigel Hague's business provided a comfortable, but not huxurious, lifestyle for the family in Greaseborough, deep in the coal and steel heartland of socialist south

William earned useful cash working with the delivery lorries on runs from the company works at Park Gate in nearby Rotherham. His mother, Stella, the

daughter of a local farmer, said: "I think going out like that on the lorries, meeting people, helped him get on. That and going to a compre-hensive, where all sorts go. gave him the common touch. He can get on with anybody. career elsewhere so the family sold Charles Hague and Co in 1989. "It would have been there for him if he had wanted it, but he was not interested." Mrs hague said. Her husband, now 69, was

the third generation of the Hagues to run the family company. Hague's Pop Factory, as it was known locally. was started in 1870 by William's great-grandfather were sold to local shops and pubs. It also did home deliveries and locals still recall the lorries bringing crates of pop. In its later years the business moved into wine whole-

saling. The Hagues were also part-owners of five pubs. They sold the firm, which had 32 staff, to a subsidiary of Boddingtons brewery Manchester and soft-drinks production ceased soon afterwards. Today the works is

#### The leader is willing, but his troops are still too weak hostility to further European inte sion, he said, is 'not a bolt-on extra. RIDDELL

WILLIAM HAGUE has established himself as Conservative leader this week, but the party itself remains in a stunned and confused state. The Shadow Cabinet is restless and too many of its members have not yet adjusted to loss of office. Convalescence is just beginning: recovery is some way

The standing of Mr Hague was artifically low before the conference, partly as a result of his own misjudgements. But the endorsement process by party members, be many arguments ahead over implementation.

Mr Hague is also the best conference orator to be Tory leader for a long time, more fluent than either Margaret Thatcher or John Major, as he showed both on Tuesday and again yesterday. Many people, in the party as well as among the public generally, have not known what to make of him. He has now begun to fill out his identity by talking about his personal experiences and what he has learnt of freedom

ON POLITICS

story to be told, and to be sold to the

The Hague strategy has also become clearer. This week, we have heard contrition, humility (often somewhat strained from former Cabinet ministers) and even, yesterday, an outright apology for Britain's entry into the European exchange rate mechanism ("a great

The most controversial, and unexpected, feature was the new. caring face of Conservatism. This is both necessary, to appeal to a younger generation and risky, as shown by the hostile reaction esterday of the moral arbiters of the committed Tory press to Michael Portillo's lecture.

Mr Hague himself yesterday both effectively countered Lord Tebbit's assault on multiculturalism and carefully balanced, 'the enduring values' of traditional family life and understanding and tolerance of people to Conservatism. It's at its very core." Society is back on the Tory agenda, even if these remarks were more coolly received by the Tory faithful than the breast-beating over the exchange-rate mechanism or the attacks on Labour.

However, it is hard to know what to make of his comment about a 'democratic, popular Conservatism that listens, that has compassion at its core. It is perilously close to the soundbite vacuities of "new" Labour that Mr Hague was himself criticising earlier in the speech.

little sign of that yesterday. There was much about the continued relevance of Conservative principles but little sense of where the party might be going.

What are the new challenges it

expects to face? What role is there for the state? What do his references to self-reliance and community responsibilities really mean? Policymaking can wait, but this is the debate that Mr Hague should starting now. As it is, about the only definite

policy so far, apart from apposition

gration. But the Tories are largely rrelevant to this and many other issues. They have lost the political initiative. Whether Britain enters a single currency will depend on Tony Blair's judgement, not Wil-

No one can tell what the result of the next general election will be. At present, it is Labour's to lose, and iew would bet on this. Mr Hague may hope, and plan, for a return to office in five years. But much of his party is still behaving as if it will be

PETER RIDDELI

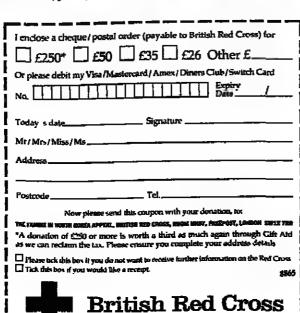
# FAMINE IN NORTH KOREA URGENT APPEAL FOR AID

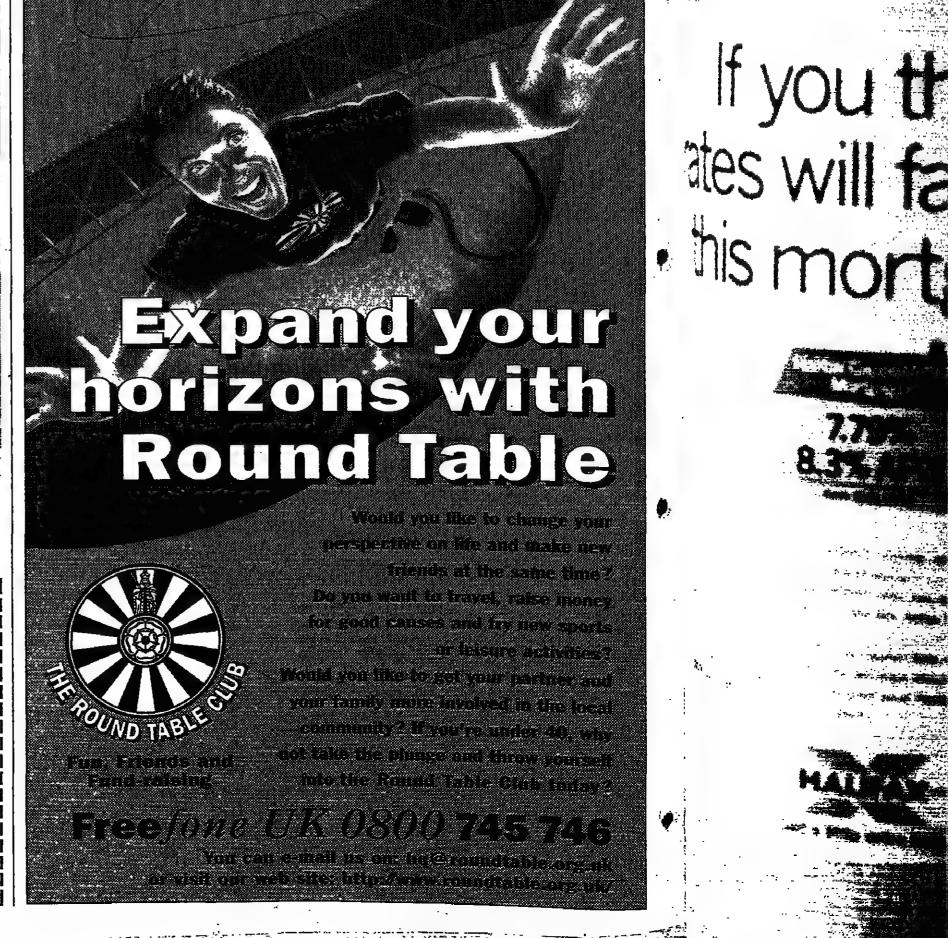


For the third consecutive year the harvest in North Korea has been ruined by devastating oods. Many homes have been destroyed and millions of people face starvation. Already huge numbers of children are barely surviving on a diet of tree bark, grass and roots. The oods have also severely damaged the nation s health system leaving it ill-equipped to deal with malnourished and suffering children.

The people of North Korea are in desperate need. The Red Cross is organising emergency supplies of food to vulnerable groups and medical equipment to the failing

Your help is vital. Just £26.00 could feed a family of four for two months. This money can help the Red Cross save lives. Please call now with your credit card donation.





the scenes still hampers revival

SINGLE mothers, Asians, Afro-Caribbeans, Yorkshire suckler cow-owners, every deserving minority has had its hand held by the Conservatives in the week the Tory party presented a softer face. But behind the smiles the feud that brought the Tories to their current pass still festers.

The momentum for the Conservative cultural revolution at Blackpool came from a friendship forged around the last Cabinet's table. But the prospects of revival are still clouded by tensions apparent last week in the Shadow Cabinet room.

William Hague was elected not just to give the Tories a fresh face and a surer public relations touch but also to bring coherence and clarity on Europe. He made clear during the leadership election than unity could not be built on a "constantly shifting fudge". Since then he has been determined to draw a line in the sand but some of his colleagues are trying to kick it in

Mr Hague has made attempts to fashion a policy on Europe both sceptical and inclusive but the strength of the agreed line — that the single currency is ruled out for the "foreseeable future" — has been tested by Shadow Cabinet dissidents such as David Curry whose interpretation of foreseeable" implies ten minutes rather than the leader-ship's preferred version of ten

Hague supporters were muttering their irritation with Curry as they necked their Budweisers in the conference hotel on Thursday night but they were confident other factors were aiready working to the Tories' advantage.

The first of these is the political intelligence Hague displays, apparently much more attuned to the demands of modern campaigning than his predecessor.

Tory party staffers believe the deliberate downplaying of expectations before the result of the ballot on his leadership is evidence of greater grip. analysis in his speech of new Labour's lack of firm princi-

Tories' soft focus hides

feud that lingers on,

writes

Michael Gove

Hague's handling of his own reform programme certainly looked adept. He was elected leader by the MPs over the heads of the activists in what amounts to an arranged marriage between Hague and his party. The party, initially suspicious, is now warming to the match, especially as Hague shows every sign of taking on a parliamentary party blamed by activists for the scale of defeat,

Hague's willingness to take on the Jurassic and geriatric tendency within his own party has been bolstered by the encouragement of the man he expected to be his leader. Michael Portillo and William Hague share a belief that the Tories should look softer. think harder and apologise fully if the Tories are to return

Over dinner in the Portillo's Victoria Square home in the summer, William and Pfion and Michael and Carolyn had a chance to reflect on defeat. The fruits of that dinner were



Portillo: ally in Hague's battle with old guard

Mr Portillo's remodelling saw him abandon the ministe rial pinstripes for sackcloth and ashes. "I have made many mistakes in my career," he confided to the 2,000-strong audience and the blue rinses who once admired him for being a bastard new adored him for saying sorry.

But their outlook is not universally shared. One Shadow minister on the Left thought the new tolerant tone wonderful, but two years too ate. If we'd had a speech like that from Portillo before the election we wouldn't be in the mess we are now". Another Shadow minister on the Right was a touch worried that, we've moved too fast. We did a lot of work to defend the family and we can't forget we fought the last election with a commitment to pro-family taxation as the centrepiece of the

Mr Portillo's lecture was only the most conspicuous remodelling on the Right.

Leadership ambitions had already wrought a transformation in some senior Tories. In the battle to succeed John Major the contest's hard man, Michael Howard, became makeover Mike. The Gordon Gekko pinstripes were swapped for subtler Savile Row shades. Speeches which were once barristerial tours de force now have references to Beavis and Butthead.

John Redwood sported a softer fringe and a suit and manner which are less but-

The only display of humility in which Ken Clarke has indulged this week was the work of his wife Gillian. She preferred Doreen Cumpsty's bed and breakfast to the glitz and glamour of the conference hotel. The former Chancellor's reputation for prudence was underlined. Mr Clarke did stray off-message in an inter-view with the Evening Standard, when he confirmed he still wants to lead his party. But at the end of a week when the rest of his party has shown





Blonde bombshell: Ffion Jenkins in that much-hyped dress; with the blonde she supplanted as party pin-up; and at the end of her fiance's final conference address

# Ffion is unfazed by her dress rehearsal

Damian Whitworth on a week that set Tory pulses racing

UNTIL vesterday this week's Conservative Party conference had followed the familiar pattern of recent years. A male Tory leader striving to eclipsed by a dazzling blonde whose brief cameo appearances stole the show. This time, however, the lady in question was the leader's

fiancée, not his predecessor. Such has been the excitement about Fflon Jenkins this week that for the official highlight of the conference, William Hague's speech yesterday, she kept a low profile in order to focus attention on him. She did not sit on the stage but slipped into the conference hall just before his solo grand entrance and tucked herself away in the middle of the second row where she clapped enthusiastically and laughed at jokes she must already have heard. Only when the speech was over was she pulled on to the platform by Mr Hague.

If Miss Jenkins had still been in the Welsh Offce, where she was an anonymous civil servant until recently, she would have spent the last week poring over the minutiae of the Devolution Bill with Ran Davies, the Welsh Secretary. Instead, in her first conference, she has become the pin-

nulses of constituency chairmen galloping in an evening dress that was risque without being too shocking.

The Ff Factor has sup-

planted even the Thatcher

Effect. When Mr Hague and Miss Jenkins were photographed with Baroness Thatcher he said he was sandwiched between his two favourite ladies. If behaviour in the Imperial Hotel foyer is anything to go by, Miss Jenkins was a bigger favourite for conference-goers than even the former Prime Minister. There was a large turn out (and not just of press) to see Miss Jenkins descend a staircase in her dress than there was for the arrival of Lady Thatcher and Sir Denis. Lady Thatcher, as she does every year, grabbed headlines, but they were of nothing compared with the acres of coverage devoted to Ms Jenkins's much-hyped but mildly disappointing

Considering that this was her first experience of intense media scrutiny she performed with accomplishment. At her solitary photocall she maintained as much dignity as is possible when sitting on a toadstool talking to a bemused toddler at Bradley Beaver's restau-

posed with poise, refraining

from grinning as much as Mr Hague, who has also adopted a strange habit of pointing at the cameras. On the stage yesterday, us the couple basked in the applause of a party desperate to shed its geriatric image, she put her arm round him, but he did not kiss her. Earlier in the week, when photographers had asked him to, he had said that they would have to wait until they were

"Ffion was nervous before the conference began but that is only to be expected." a friend said. But she's a very cool and intelligent lady. She's not fazed by any of

Apart from laughing on a walkabout when The Times pointed out somebody wearing a HAGUE baseball cap and making the exciting dis-closure that "it's going really well", she has remained silent and a senior member of the Hague camp said she was not intending to give any interviews. "I don't think she will talk to the press in the foreseeable future. That's not a policy decision, she just doesn't want to."

In December Mr Hague will become the first politician in living memory to marry while leading his party. For his bride, this week

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# 'We'll be the only party of principle'

# Hague offers alternative to Labour's 'cynicism'

The following is an edited version of William Hague's speech yesterday.

I SAID that I wanted a fresh conference. And I have got it. I believe that this week we have had the freshest and most constructive and exciting conference for years.

I said that I wanted an open conference. This week we have had some of the most open and vigorous and honest debates that our party, any party, has had for years and years. I said that I wanted a clear conference. And this week the message of change and renewal has come out of this hall with a clarity and directness that is rare in modern politics.

I said that I wanted a united conference. There is no doubt this week that you, you the conference, have demonstrated a new unity of purpose and a new unity of conviction that none of the pundits predicted. Fresh, open, clear and united. That is what I wanted to see and that is what this conference has delivered.

Far from being dead we have embarked on a process of reform and renewal that will rebuild our party, rejuvenate our membership, restore our confidence and make us fit to return to govern at the next general election.

As some of you may remember, I gave a speech in this very hall 21) years ago almost to the day. I told Margaret Thatcher what she had to do to be a successful Prime Minister. It was a bit presumptuous. but it worked. And you have to hand it to her, she took the message to heart. I spent three minutes 20 years ago telling Margaret what she needed to do. Then, to the lasting benefit of this country, she spent the next 13 years telling all of us what to do.

Six months from now, we will have our new constitution, the foundation of a new, united, inclusive, democratic, decentralised, and open party. Never again will we have a divided organisation. Never again will the voice of our good name of our party to be

### THAT COUNT

William Hague matched Tony Blair in one respect yesterday: the use of comference speeches reveals that he showed his softer

But there were some big ifferences. Mr Hague poke of freedom 21 times.

blackened by the greed and selfishness of a few. This week has been one of reflection, but it has also been one of reconstruction. Today I'd like to talk about my kind of Conservatism, the party I lead, the things I believe in.

I'd like to tell you about an open Conservatism that is tolerant, that believes freedom is about much more than economics, that believes freedom doesn't stop at the shop counter, 1'd like to tell you about a democratic, popular Conservatism that listens, that has compassion at its core. I want to tell you about a

to tell you one thing and then

Burdock all round!

traditions, but embracing the future. I want to tell you about a changing Conservatism that acknowledges its mistakes. But I also want to tell you about a proud Conservatism that has served this nation

well and will do so again. We won't just be a party of power, we will be a party of principle, too. In the coming years, we'll be the only party of principle in this country. Listening to a Labour politician, you might well think Im being a bit unfair. "A hand up, not a hand out," "Tough on crime." "Opportunity for all." The words are all in their place. It all sounds pretty familiar. It words, It's no accident Labour adopts our words. Opinion polls and focus groups tell them they're popular. They could have saved their money. We could have told them that

But just because they use our language, and have swapped the donkey jacket for the Armani suit, doesn't mean they actually believe in the principles that give that language its purpose. It is their lack of principle which is the central characteristic of the new Labour Government,

Tony Blair said that he ran as new Labour, that he won as new Labour, and that now he'll govern as new Labour. Well let me tell him we're going to oppose him as new Labour, New Labour, They're for everything but for nothing. Tough, tender.

Hot, cold,

Soft, hard. Fast, slow. For you, for me. To give, to take. To stop, to start. What sort of speech was that last week? Mr Blair, full of this, full of that. But what on earth did it all mean? What is he going to do? Well, I think I know. It means that on any issue, at any time he's happy

beat them as new Labour. Labour have lost their morall about what sounds good,



what trips off the tongue, what bulletins, and what gets a headline in tomorrow's papers. Every Labour politician has to have his own focus group. Except, John Prescott, of course. He has a lack-offocus group.

Well, politics is about much

more than focus groups and short-term gimmicks. Responsible politicians have to make judgments about the rights and wrongs of issues. There are times when they have to ignore the opinion polls, when they have to take tough decisions. There are times when you've got to risk unpopularity, when you must look beyond tomorrow. Labour are already ducking

those choices. They've announced 39 policy reviews since the general election. do something different. That's why we'll oppose them as new Labour. And that's why we'll Every time we ask them a difficult question they say reviews never end. They never actually report. Imagine if the Second World War had been fought this way. You can just imagine them in 1940: "We shall review them on the heaches, we shall review them on the landing grounds, we shall review them in the fields and the streets; we shall review them in the hills; we shall never publish the results." I believe that Labour have introduced a new and deeply unattractive cynicism into British politics. A new cynicism that says it doesn't matter whether a policy is

right or wrong but only whether it can be sold. Let me give you an example. lmagine that a party had deliberately misrepresented its opponents plans for the state pension. That it had deliberately and cynically played on the fears of the old and the vulnerable for its own immediate political advantage. Imagine that that same introduced in its very first budget a £5 billion tax on

people's pension funds. You'd think that was incredfble. You'd think that no set of politicians could be so shameess. You would have thought that a party that had done all that would have felt more than a pang of conscience, more than a twinge of shame. You would have thought that a party that had manipulated people in that way, and then kicked them in the teeth, would be ashamed to show its face to the British people. But not new Labour.

We have no intention of stooping to a new politics without conscience. Let them stoop. We will conquer.

We're not fooled by the mood music of new Labour. Not like the Liberal Democrats, unfortunately. They've been completely mesmerised by these politics without values. They're jigging along

> **6** Politics is about more than focus groups and gimmicks 9

happily to the Pied Piper of owning Street. Paddy's proved a real push-

over. He's been completely seduced. When the Prime Minister says come up and see my etchings he still expects to see some artwork. Everyone now knows for certain what we've always warned: if you vole Liberal you are supportng the Labour Party.

Mind you, I don't know who is going to regret this partnership most. Remember, the Liberals want to legalise cannabis but ban lottery scratch cards. They want a federal Europe but voted to boycott French wine. And Tony Blair wants to have an alliance with these people? Soon we'll be saying: don't vote Labour or you'll let the Liberals in.

So much for the parties that don't believe in anything. Let's talk about a party that does believe in something, that does have principles, values and purpose. Let's talk about ourselves. I'm going to tell you what I

believe in. First of all, I believe in freedom. In Thomas Jefferson's famous words. "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance". Two hundred years later we've got to be vigilant against a Government whose every instinct is to boss, to meddle, to are the only party in Britain birthright to be protected rather than a concession to be handed down. So I believe in

And I believe in enterprise. I didn't learn about enterprise from economics textbooks and the back pages of the Finanenterprise first hand, from my own family. My father, before he retired, ran a small business. Hague Soft Drinks. We such well-known brands as Hague Cola, Hague Cherryade, Hague Orangeade and my favourite, Hague Dandelion and Burdock. I said we'd be an honest party. So I'll, be honest. Some flavours tasted better than

We were never rich. But we were comfortable. I knew from an early age what that comfort depended on: dilitive. Sound business practice, dedication, hard work and long hours. The same values that were the foundation of my family's business helped launch millions of similar small businesses under Conservative governments. Enterprise needed the Conservative Party then. Enterprise needs

the Conservative Party now. I believe in enterprise. And I believe in education. I have to believe in education. I'm only standing here today because of education. If Labour now builds on our achievements and brings forward the right policies, then we will support them. This subject is too important for any politician to

bear a grudge.

But what have they done so far? They took the assisted aces scheme, the scheme which helps bright children from poor families to go to some of the best schools in the country and abolished it. Can you believe it? Next year's youngsters will now be denied that opportunity. What a stu-pid and vindictive thing to do.

Not content with that, we now find grant maintained schools condemned. Grammar schools are under threat. Church schools will be stripped of their independence. I say to Labour, recognise and applaud diversity. Join us in the modern age which recognises diversity. Education needs the Conservative Party now.

Labour ask us to trust them on health. Trust them when waiting lists are going up? Trust them as they axe hospital building across the country? And trust them when they put Frank Dobson in charge of the NHS? I'm told that when Frank got into his ministerial car the other week, his driver said to him: "Have you heard the latest Frank Dobson joke, sir?""But". he protested, "I am Frank Dobson". "Dont wor-ry". said his driver. "Ill tell it to you slowly".

We hear the Government is committed to welfare reform. An enormous challenge. A job for someone of real dynamism, of intellectual rigour, a iob for someone with real clout at the Cabinet table. A job for Harriet Harman. I hear that Tony Blair is planning a reshuffle. He thinks she's outlived her uselessness.

Conservatives believe that welfare dependency breeds despair and misery. If, despite everything, the Government can break this cycle of despair they will get our unswerving support and they will deserve it. We won't be afraid to support the Government if they are right. So I believe in

currency may present this obligation to others. And I country with one of the most believe in our nation. Each one of us is proud to be momentous decisions in its history. For a lot of Conserva-Welsh, or Scottish, or Northtives, there are profound conern Irish or English. Or Yorkshire. And we have every stitutional objections to a ight to be. I come from Yorkshire and I am marrying Wales. I'm not one of those politicians who looks at the United Kingdom through a pair of binoculars from inside

of an Islington drain pipe. I know that Britain is more than the sum of its parts. I come from Yorkshire, and I love Wales but I call the United Kingdom my country.

**6** I abhor the damage that this Labour Government is doing 9

That is why I abhor the damage that this Labour Government is doing to our nation. They're pitting one part our United Kingdom

against another. So I believe in the United Kingdom. And I believe in a Europe of nation states.

All Conservatives want to see a strong and prosperous Europe in which Britain plays a leading part. A Europe in which we work with our partners to bring down the barriers to free trade. An open Europe which embraces the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

But we've got to have a flexible Europe of nation states. Europe itself is not a nation, and it should not aspire to be a nation. I have to tell you, there is a limit to European integration. And I must say, in my opinion, we are near that limit now. The prospect of a single

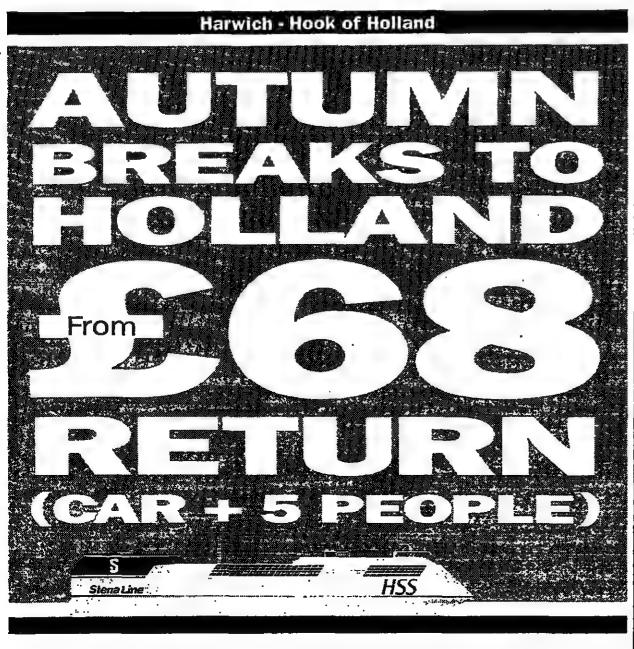
single currency. Others in our party, while not ruling out entry at some point, believe it would be a mistake for Britain to take part in such a risky economic experiment, with all its far reaching consequences, at least until we've had a the M25. I don't look at the world through the wrong end decent opportunity to see whether it works. And that is why we say no to abolishing the pound for the foreseeable There will always be some

serious differences in any serious party. We will give our backbench MPs a free vote on a single currency. But what is most important is that the people should have a free vote and the final say in a referendum. Not the rigged and fudged referendum some in So I believe in a Europe of

nation states. So I believe in freedom. I believe in enterprise. I believe in education. I believe in self-reliance. I believe in obligation to others. I believe in the nation.

So let's hold our heads high and say to new Labour and the whole world: these are the things we believe in, these are the values from which we will never retreat. Let's say to the world, this is what we believe in and this is what we will always stand for.

Let's challenge New Labour: this is what we believe. what do you believe? These are our values, where are yours? This is what is sacred to us, when will anything be sacred to you? Some people think none of this matters any more. They think we've no more need for beliefs. We've reached the end of history. The battle's been won, the game is over, the fat lady has sung. But I'm here to tell you they're wrong. Our beliefs and our values matter now more than ever.



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# DA fights death row lobby

AT ONE of my first criminal law tutorials at Oxford in 1981, my tutor and I talked at length about Robert Morgenthau, Manhattan's flinty district attorney. We discussed, I remember, "the American way", in which the discretion to prosecute alleged criminals can rest with a single, elected individual. I am

delighted to report that Mr Morgenthau, now 78, is still DA, 16 years later. In fact, he has held that office uninterruptedly since 1975 and is up for re-election later this year, which should ensure that he is Manhattan's "Mr Prosecution" until at least 2001. Few are prepared to bet that this lifelong Democrat will not soldier on beyond that date.

the incarnation of New York history, is the incarnation of New York history, is the last powerful liberal in a city which was once a bastion of that creed. In recent years New York has swung to the right — with a new clamour, in particular, for capital punishment, cul-

NEW YORK

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S

minating in its reintroduction in 1995 and the spotlight has often fallen uncomfortably on Mr Morgenthau, who is a dogged opponent of the "try 'em and fry 'em" school.

This week he earned a volley of

This week he earned a volley of criticism for his refusal to seek the death penalty for a man accused of killing a police officer in May. The case was described by Rudolph Giuliani, the city's Mayor, and George Pataki, the state's Governor — Republicans both — as "precisely the reason the death penalty was established in New York". Yet even this "natural capital punishment case" failed to budge Mr Morgenthau. Writing

in The New York Times two
years ago, when the city was
in the grip of an intense
debate on the subject, he said
of the death penalty: "It
exacts a terrible price in
dollars, lives and human
decency. Rather than damping down the flames of violence, it fuels them while
draining millions of dollars
from more promising efforts to restore

safety to our lives."

Many in New York are unhappy with his stance, not least the family of the dead police officer, Anthony Sanchez. The victim's embittered mother, Loretta, said: "In our eyes, it is not just. I think in

a lot of eyes, it is not just."

Sanchez, a decorated officer with a spotless ten-year record as one of New York's finest, was shot when responding to an armed robbery call in the Chelsea district. His alleged killer, Scott Schneiderman, was a failed stockbroker who had entered his wealthy father's building in order to rob him.



ALMOST as one, New Yorkers turned on their favourite cons, the Yankees, this week after they lost the World Series baseball play-offs to the Cleveland Indians. The anger was not because of the defeat, although the city is struggling to accept that its batters and pitchers are no longer "world" champions. It was rather that the players, including pitcher Andy Petitle, above, did not seem to be mourning their demise. The Yankees flew back to New York and had a good old time at a downtown bar — "Yankee Panky", according to the New York Post.

### How an alter ego failed the NYPD blue language test

NICHOLAS HYTNER, the director of The Madness of King George, made a confession to me recently. "I impersonated you the other day, although it wasn't a great success."

This, in a nutshell, was his story. He was in a taxi in New York, driven by a Haitian. The cabbie made an unorthodox manoeuvre, attracting the attention

of a police car. The cops screeched up to the cab. The flustered Haitian was peppered with words beginning exclusively with "f" and "n".

Hytner tried to intervene. "I say," he said to the foul-mouthed officer. "You can't talk to him like that. Stop it immediately. I am the New York correspondent of the London Times."

The officer told him to mind his own business, or words to that effect.

The story puzzles me. Why did the officer not listen to him? The line always seems to work when I use it.

PETER CARUANA. Gibraltar's Chief Minister, was in town this week at the United Nations, in his

campaign for a better deal for the Rock. Sources tell me that he is getting less support than he would like from Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. Unlike Malcolm Rifkind, his predecessor, who saw Mr Caruana as a plucky, Astérix-like figure keeping the "Romans" in Madrid at bay, Mr Cook is believed to be lukewarm about Gibraltar.

#### Preacher's star team had feet of clay

FROM TOM RHODES

BILL McCARTNEY, head of the fastest-growing evangelical movement in the United States, was yesterday at the centre of controversy over his past as an American football

coach.

Mr McCartney, whose Promise Keepers movement attracted 700,000 men to the centre of Washington last weekend in a show of family commitment, apparently failed to recognise the den of iniquity that he was running while in charge of American football for 12 years at the University of Colorado. The man who has consistently portrayed himself as an agent of God and has always known what is best for young mentransformed his Colorado team from perennial losers to frequent victors between 1982

But during that time, according to an article from Sports Illustrated, his retraits were accused of theft, serial rape, assault, extortion, drugs, criminal trespass and possession of weapons. The entire team was eventually required to attend a date-rape seminar. From 1986 to 1989 alone, 24 of the players were arrested.

#### Tobacco firms win US reprieve

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE tobacco industry won an unexpected reprieve yesterday when a landmark trial about "secondhiand smoking" ended in settlement, forestalling a jury verdict that would have set a precedent for dozens of follow-up cases.

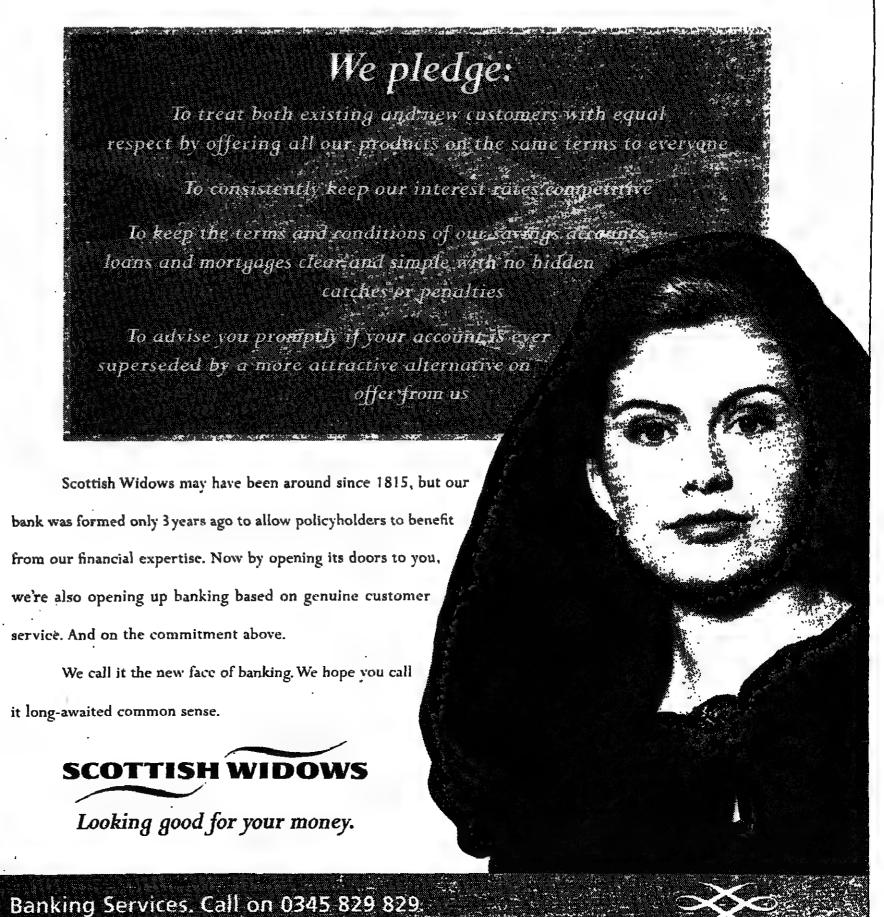
The suit, which was the first to claim damages from "passive smoking" — inhaling smokers' cigarette fumes — was also the first class action against the tobacco industry.

It was filed on behalf of thousands of flight attendants based in America who claimed that they were made ill by breathing smoke on passenger aircraft.

The settlement, which was not disclosed, ended the four-month trial before the jury was asked to consider a verdict. Dozens of follow-up cases were expected to be launched immediately if the defendants — five cigarette makers and two industry groups — had

The tobacco companies denied that secondhand smoke had caused the flight attendants' lung cancer, heart disease and other symptoms, and claimed that other high-aittude factors such as ozone were responsible.

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WORLD IN BRIEF

Blasts in Delhi on

Delhi: At least 12 people were injured in three separate explosions, believed to have been caused by bombs, in the Indian

capital yesterday, two days before the start of a state visit by the

the city and a third near a railway track in the old district. The

suspected bombs went off on the eve of the Hindu festival of Dussehra. Delhi has wimessed similar explosions at this time in

the last two years. A police spokesman said 12 people had been injured, although the United News of India gave the figure as 16.

with four people seriously hurt. UNI quoted Sahib Singh Verma.

Delhi's Chief Minister, as saying that the timing of the blasts

pointed "the finger of suspicion towards foreign elements". He

Nairobl: Kenyan police beat up and arrested several members

of parliament while dispersing a rally called to snub celebrations

marking President Moi's 19-year hold on power. Witnesses said that the MPs — Paul Muite, Oloo Ogeka, Henry Ruhiu and Benjamin Ndumbai — were beaten before being detained along

with a dozen aides. Mr Muite, who is also a human rights

activist, was "in a bad shape" in hospital last night. Other MPs

managed to evade arrest. Police units later stormed a shanty

dwelling near Kamukunji, on the outskirts of the capital, in

pursuit of stone-throwing youths who were angered by the disruption of the reform rally. (Reuters)

Tokyo: The Japanese capital is to lose its notoriety as a paradise

for paedophiles, thanks to a new law that makes paid sex with

children a criminal offence (Robert Whymant writes). When the

law comes into force on December 16, people who pay for sex

with anyone under 18 will be liable to up to a year's jail term and a £2,600 fine. Under existing rules, sexual contact with children

under 13 is illegal but relations with teenagers aged 13 or over are allowed unless coercion is involved. Members of civic groups

Tokyo to curb paedophiles

Police beat anti-Moi MPs

Two of the explosions were on buses in the north and east of

eve of royal visit

# Dubious tale of murder in high places rocks France

fundamental workings of democracy, the very rule of law." Jacques Chirac declared this week in his most solemn presidential tones.

The threat to French democracy that had brought the President to such a peak of moral indignation came in the unlikely form of a short and distinctly dubious book by a pair of investigative journalists claiming, without proof, that two former conservative Cabinet ministers had ordered the 1994 murder of a fellow member of parliament.

The charges could hardly be more spectacular, and the ensuing scandal has rocked the French Establishment with a astonishing tale of assassination, corruption. organised crime, political conspira-

A new book is linking François Léotard, the former Defence Minister, with the death of anti-corruption MP, Ben Macintyre writes

cy and journalistic ethics. In February 1994 Yann Piat, a former MP for the far-right National Front who had defected to the centreright Union for French Democracy (UDF) was shot dead in her car on a deserted road in the Riviera by

gunmen on a motorcycle. Plat, an MP in the Var department along the Cote d'Azur, is known to have been investigating allegations of mafia money-laundering involving Defence Ministry

land in the region. It was widely assumed that the 41-year-old anticorruption campaigner was the victim of a malia "hit", and after a long investigation two young men from Marseilles were charged with her murder. They will be tried next year, but investigators have never established who was behind the assassination.

Then last week, journalists Andre Rougeor and Jean-Michel

names - Encornet (The Squid) and Trottinette (The Scooter) - but few were unaware that they referred to two of the most prominent politicians in France: Francois Leotard. then Defence Minister, now head of the UDF and widely tipped as a potential presidential candidate, and his political ally, Jean-Claude Gaudin, former Urban Affairs Minister, Mayor of Marseilles and powerful president of the Provence-Côte d'Azur regional assembly.

Earlier this week, as the political gossip-mill roared into overdrive, M Leotard and M Gaudin came forward to denounce the book, demanding that its authors produce their proof or face libel charges. The enraged M Léotard and enemies within the Gaullist. RPR party, allies of the UDF in the previous Government, or the National Front for the smears.

ه کذارمن رالامل

Next March, M Léotard is planning to run for the presidency of the southern region against, among others, Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National Front leader. To some, the level of outrage.

seems out of all proportion to the quality of the allegations which are, to say the least, thin. The source behind the allegations in The Yann Piat Affair: Murderers at the Heart of Power is identified only as a "general". This

unnamed individual, claiming

there had been a second "team" on

the scene when Piat was murdered

had intercepted the assassins immediately after the murder and had been shown signed documents ordering the killing. He said that the incident had been filmed, but no such proof has been produced.

The authors alleged that Piat had amassed evidence, including a computer disk and photographs, linking the two unnnamed senior politicians with the matia and a plot to launder cash by selling off disused army training grounds to corrupt developers near Fréjus, where M Léolard was Mayor.

The charges, whether true or not, have refocused attention on a stillunsolved political assassination and a region of France riddled with organised corruption. Before she

attacked local politicans for their links with the local mafia.

There is one final disquieting element that may be linked to the mystery. Last week, Marseilles police found the body of Andre Isoardo, a member of the Provence regional council, who also defected from the National Front to the UDF. Isoardo had been shot five times: in the hand, the stomach, the neck and finally, fatally, in the mouth. More surprising than the death, or even the victim, was the coroner's verdict: the politician, it was formally announced, had committed suicide.

> John Lloyd, page 22 Leading article, page 23

# Desert flight festival will go with a bang

HIGH over the Mojave Desert, the distinctive crack of an FI5 fighter breaking the sound barrier heralded more than a routine training mission. At the controls, half a century after making supersonic history in a lethal rocket plane nicknamed the "Flying Brick". General Chuck Yeager was at it again.

Starting today, the test pilot will mark the 50th anniversary of his legendary flight in the Bell X-I research rocket plane with a week of deafena festivities at the dusty Edwards Air Force Base where he launched the era of supersonic aviation in 1947. General Yeuger, an Ameri-

can, now retired, performed his first punch through the sound barrier with two broken ribs earned chasing his young wife over the Moiave on horseback the previous night. When he re-enacts the flight on Tuesday in a twinengined FISE Strike Eagle it be with the relatively minor handicap of a 74-year-

By chance, the anniversary of one of the century's most dramatic technological breakthroughs comes as the British Thrust SSC team is poised to hurtle past the same milestone on land, on a similar barren waste 500 miles to the north in Nevada.

In the five intervening decades supersonic flight has evolved to a multibillion-dollar branch of the superpower arms race — one that the United States can be said to have won with the SR-71 Blackbird, capable of travelling at over three times the speed of sound. Thanks to Concorde, breaking Mach I has also become a fact of life

FROM BEN MACINTYRE

IN PARIS

A BORDEAUX court yesterday ordered that the alleged Nazi collabo-

rator. Maurice Papon, be released

from prison during his trial, prompt-

ing furious accusations that the

retired bureaucrat, charged with

sending hundreds of Jews to their

deaths in the Second World War, will

be allowed to die without seeing the

inside of a jail cell ever again. M

Pilot who broke

sound barrier in 1947 is to

fly again, writes

Giles Whittell for many. Yet like the Thrust team. General Yeager and a tiny crew of technicians were forced to shrug off doubting

pundits and self-styled experts who in General Yeager's case claimed the sound barrier was an unbreakable. invisible "brick wall in the sky". The first sign that the naysayers were wrong was a wobbling machometer. "Sud-

denly the needle began to fluctuate," General Yeager wrote in his autobiography. "It went up to .965 Mach then tipped right off the scale. I thought I was seeing things! We were flying supersonici

Yeager, returning to scene of his triumph

convicted and sentenced to life im-

prisonment in the current trial, until

because the former official of the

collaborationist Vichy regime has

acute heart disease, he would almost

certainly die before the final appeals

court verdict, the families of his

alleged victims said. Court-appointed

doctors had recommended that the

accused be detained in a secure

That process could take years and,

all legal appeals have been heard.

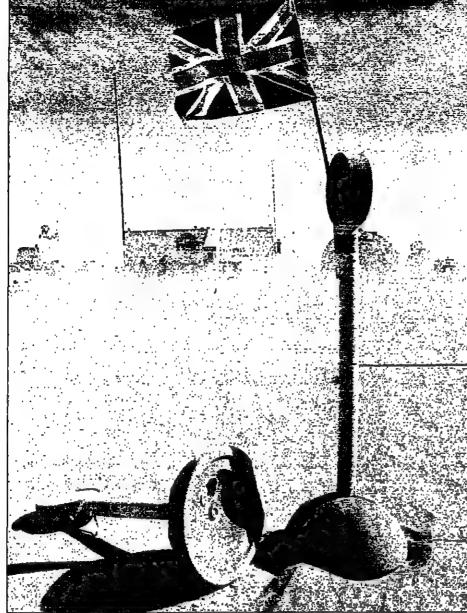
could be sitting up there

sipping lemonade."
The 24-year-old was burning several gallons of alcohol and liquid oxygen a second, levelling off at 42,000ft having been dropped from a B29 mother ship in a stubby orange aircraft he likened to a 50-calibre machinegun bul-let'. He had named the X-l Glamorous Glennis after his wife for good luck.

Bell's chief civillan test pilot had stopped flying the X-l at Mach 0.8 because the company would not pay him an extra \$150,000 (£93,000) danger money. General Yeager broke the sound barrier on his Air Force wages.

Lacking a degree, General Yeager was incligible for the space programme, but his claim to have attended a "college of life and death" is typically sound. Aged 20, he shot down five German aircraft in one day. The following year he was shot down over France only to escape to England via a brutai winter crossing of the Pyrenees in the course of which he saved a wounded comrade's life by amputating his leg. In his time at Edwards, 30 fellow test-pilots died.

Critics, including at times his wife, who died of cancer in 1990, have variously accused him of arrogance, egocentrism and a troubling inability to show emotion. He should answer at least one of these complaints on Tuesday front of 500,000 spectators, he will fly a twinengined FISE to 30,000ft. take it to about Mach 21 and lay down a pretty good sonic



the Thrust SSC compound in the Black Rock Desert in Nevada as the team waits for a break in the weather to attempt its goal of breaking the sound barrier on land. Five weeks spent fine-tuning

Court allows ailing Papon to stay out of jail for years

hospital, but the court went further.

ruling he should be set at liberty

given his "great age, the length of the

Arno Klarsfeld, a lawyer represent-

ing civil plaintifs in the case,

described the ruling as "scandalous".

The president of the court "has

shown where his sympathies lie ...

this trial no longer makes sense, since the accused is under no risk of

prison", M Klarsfeld said. Michel Slitinsky, whose father perished at

trial and his state of health".

Dust cloud over Thrust

the twin-jet car has taken it to an unofficial top speed of 750mph and left it "very stable, very fast, with bags of

Auschwitz, denounced the "strategy"

of the defence to prevent his impris-

onment. "They say this is a very old

man. In the deportation convoys.

there were very young children." M

On Thursday, his third night at

Gradignan jail outside Bordeaux, M

Papon complained of heart pains and

was taken to a hospital intensive care

unit where his lawyers described his

symptoms as "stress bordering on a

left", said Richard the team's leader (Giles Whittell writes). But a vast Alaskan low-pressure system moved in just as problems with the car's breaking and on-board com-

"During the night the legal action

against my client was very nearly brought to a definitive end," Jean-

Marc Varaut said yesterday, adding

that "M Papon was delighted and

expected, his own death then inter-

venes before his legal appeals are

exhausted, M Papon will have spent

three days in prison: roughly 24

minutes for each of his alleged

Even if he is convicted and if, as

surprised" by the court's decision.

Prodi cool on support offer Rome: Fausto Bertinoni, the leader of Italy's hardline Communist

handed out leaflets advising people of the change.

Refoundation, who on Thursday toppled the centre-left Government of Romano Prodi, right, yesterday proposed supporting the same coalition with a specific programme for one year. But Signor Prodi, in Strasbourg for a Council of Europe summit, reacted coolly to the offer, saying that he was not prepared to discuss any proposals still based on opposition to his draft budget. (Reuters)



#### Mexican hurricane toll rises

Miami: Rescue crews searched through piles of mud and collapsed buildings yesterday for scores of people still missing after Hurricane Pauline swept through Mexico's tourist resort of Acapulco, leaving at least 123 dead and thousands homeless (David Adams writes). President Zedillo cut short a state visit to Germany and was expected to return home to take charge of the rescue efforts. Officials fear that the death toll will perhaps double. The 115mph storm left the normally sunny port city kneedeep in muddy water and strewn with uprooted trees.

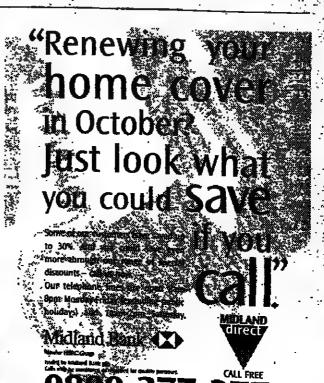
#### Move to disarm child soldiers



Freetown: The head of Sierra Leone's iunta, Major Johnny Paul Koroma, left, has ordered the immediate disarmament of all 5,000 child soldiers in the West African country, state radio said. The national army claimed to have demobilised about 1.500 of its children, but observers say half that number are still in combat situations. The Kamajor militia, fighting for the return of civilian President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah who was ousted in May, has about 1,000 children in its ranks. (AFP)

#### US death rate hits record low

Washington: America's death rate has hit a record low. according to federal health statistics released yesterday. They showed that a marked drop in Aids-related illnesses had sharply affected figures (Tom Rhodes writes). Led by a record 26 per cent decline in Aids deaths, the rate dropped to 493.6 deaths per 100,000 population, the lowest since the first statistics in 1900.



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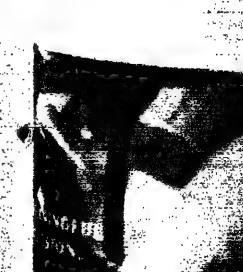
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# Hussein orders Mossad team to quit Jordan

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

king Husseln has ordered the expulsion of the entire intelligence mission from the Israeli Embassy in Amman and demanded that Israel dismiss Danny Yatom, the chief Mossad spymaster, according to Israeli media reports quoting top Jordanian officials.

officials.

The disclosures in the two biggest-selling Tel Aviv papers and on army radio came as Israel was put on maximum security alert for Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year, after new intelligence warnings that Hamas will try to exact a bloody revenge for the bungled Mossad attempt to assassinate its political head, Khaled Meshaal, in Jordan on September 25.

Israel grinds to a 25-hour halt for the Day of Atonement when observant Jews pray and last and the only vehicles on the roads are ambulances. Special guards have been placed round synagogues and all public areas. Few Israelis can forget that it was on Yom Kippur in 1973 that Arab states launched a surprise war designed to catch them off guard.

The King's action is regarded as highly damaging to Israel's security interests, as Amman has been used as the

main Mossad base for gathering information on Syria and Iraq. Until the botched attempt to poison Mr Meshaal outside his Amman office, cooperation between Mossad and its Jordanian equivalent against radical Palestinian elements had been good since

peace was signed in 1994.

News of the latest spin-off from the biggest operational and planning disaster in Mossad's history came as Israel confirmed that the Israeli Embassy in Amman had been attacked with two petrol

### Levy apologises over passports

Ottowa: Parliament cheered yesterday when Lloyd Axworthy, the Foreign Minister, announced that he had just received a full apology from David Levy, the Israeli Foreign Minister (Richard Cleroux writes). Mr Axworthy said Mr Levy had promised "that the use of forged Canadian passports by Israel would never happen again". The apology clears the way for Canadian Ambassador David Berger to return to Israel. He left after Mossad used forged Canadian pass-

bombs on Thursday night. Officials denied a German news agency report that there had later been shooting around the heavily guarded compound.

Mr Meshaal had said shortly before the attempt to burn
down the embassy that the
military wing of Hamas
would "know their duty" after
the attempt to kill him which
was averted only after Israel
sent an antidote against its
own poison. Last month Islamic militants wounded two
Israeli security guards in Amman as part of their campaign
against the normalisation of
Israeli-Jordanian ties.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, had released Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the Hamas founder, and other Jordanian and Palestinian prisoners in an effort to mollify Jordan and to secure the release of the two Israeli agents involved in the murder mission.

The head of the Mossad mission in Amman and his agents have returned home "on the express orders of King Hussein", even though Israel claims they were not involved in the attempt to kill Mr Meshaal, Israeli army radio said.

Israeli security experts said that the denials of knowledge



Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the Hamas leader who spent eight years in Israeli jails, prays in his wheelchair in Gaza City yesterday

rang hollow as four members of the Mossad hit team, including one woman sought refuge in the embassy for 48 hours after the mission's failure. "Until now the King has refused to forgive. At this stage he has announced there will be no more collaboration between the two countries in the

. هڪذار من رالامل

defence sphere in all its various forms and instructed his officials to send back to Israel everyone who is involved or suspected of being involved in Mossad work," wrote Smadar Perry, Israel's senior Arab affairs correspondent, in Yediot Aharonot.

Ms Perry added: "The Jor-

danians also transmitted a message to Israel that as long as people who were involved in the operation [to assassinate Meshaal] still serve in Mossad, there will be no co-

As part of a detailed investigation of the botched operation, the paper quoted one which the host in a bedouin society opens his house to a stranger according to the best tradition of hospitality, but

senior Jordanian official as explaining the anger of King Hussein, who had entertained Israelis in his palace only days before the murder bid.

"Imagine the situation in which the host in a bedouin society opens his house to a stranger according to the best would have done something

#### Congolese militiamen take airport

cinshasa: Militia fighters in longo who seized Brazzaville irport yesterday moved on to ttack President Lissouba's iverside palace, diplomats nd relief workers said. There is small-arms fire round the palace now. We annot confirm that it is the lobra [militia] fighting, but hat seems probable," said one iplomat in Kinshasa in touch

vith Brazzaville.

A Congolese government nilitary source said Cobranilitary source said Cobranilitary source said Cobranilitary ruler. Denis assou Nguesso, had taken he treasury building. Smoke use from the governmenteld south of the city and reas in the north held by the

President Lissouba had earer admitted losing control of frazzaville's international airort. He was in Kinshasa, apital of the neighbouring Jemocratic Republic of the ongo, during yesterday's ghting. (Reuters)

### Zimbabwe farmers flee rioting strikers

From Jan Raath in trelawney, zimbabwe

WHITE farming families have had to be evacuated from one of Zimbabwe's most prosperous tobacco-growing areas after hundreds of striking farmworkers ransacked homesteads and wrecked farm machinery.

A score of pickup trucks, driven by young white farmers and laden with armed riot police sped through the flat tobacco lands of Trelawney, about 50 miles northwest of Harare on Thursday, while air force helicopters thumped overhead, in a disturbing reminder of the Rhodesian war when white farmers fought black nationalist guerillas.

By yesterday morning, about 200 demonstrators had been arrested after a security operation that appeared to have been organised by farmers and the disturbance subsided. No injuries were reported among the 144 farming families, but several workers were said to have been as-

saulted by agitators and police officers. The violence erupted on Wednesday as the first strike by the country's farm labour force went into its second week. Workers are demanding a 135 per cent increase to their basic monthly wage of Zim\$359 (£18).

"We are on top of it now, but it is very tense still," Warwick Evans, chairman of the Trelawney-Darwendale farmers' association said. "We have not lived in fear here before, but we are living in fear now. There is a lot of uncertainty."

He said that about 30 families were evacuated on Wednesday after mobs of up to 300 men moved from farm to farm, forcing workers to join them. They surrounded homesteads, chanting anti-white abuse and threatening to kill the occupants. They smashed vehicles and equipment, pulled up crops, spilled chemicals and fuel and tore down fencing.



Gates at a Moscow news . conference yesterday

### Microsoft maestro targets Russian missiles

PROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

BILL GATES, the Microsoft billionaire, yesterday described plans to take his information revolution into space, using Russian ballistic missiles once targeted at American cities.

On a two-day visit to Moscow to promote his computer software company Mr Gates revealed details of a scheme to use converted SS20 missiles to establish a global network of more than 300 satellites in low orbit around the world.

The satellite network would enable anyone living in even the most remote regions on the globe to access the Internet and would revolutionise communications technology, particularly in the Third World.

To make the system work all the satellites must be placed in orbit within 18 months and Teledesic, the Gates company spearheading the operation, would need to use American, European and Russian rockets. Under the terms of the Start accord Russia must dispose of hundreds of missiles by 2003.

"Teledesic needs a lot of launch capability." said Mr Gates, who described the plan as at an early stage. "There is a possibility of taking weapons that have to be decommissioned and using them as launch vehicles."

Space experts said that while the system would be far cheaper than using conventional rockets like the European Space Agency's Arianne system, the missile conversion project had so far recorded mixed results.

"The problem is that these

missiles were designed to carry nuclear warheads," said one industry expert. "The G-force and vibrations are very strong and can damage a telecommunications satellite." Mr Gates said Russia had a bright future in the field of information technology but said piracy of software systems was slowing progress.

# Democrats reveal Reagan fund tape

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

JANET RENO, the American Attorney-General, declaring that she was "mad" about the belated White House release of controversial videotapes, yesterday emerged among the ranks of President Clinton's critics.

Republicans were delighted at Ms
Reno's comments, which marked an
extraordinary public assault by the
Justice Department on the White House,
Although she continues to maintain

Justice Department on the White House.
Although she continues to maintain that coffee mornings shown on 44 tapes released last weekend do not break federal election law, Ms Reno said the delay had frustrated and angered her as well as placing strain on her relationship

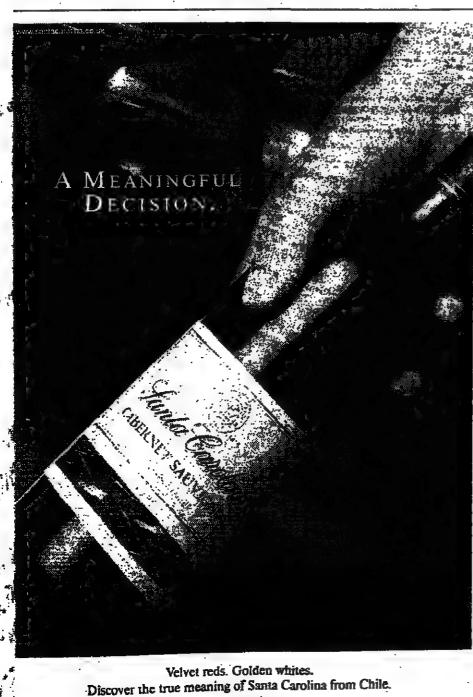
with the White House. She has launched an inquiry into why she was given the tapes months after all fundraising documents had been requested by the Justice Department and Congress. Ms Reno was particularly annoyed that they had appeared after her own decision not to appoint an independent counsel to investigate alleged irregular fundraising by Mr Clinton last year. The White House said it had found the footage several days

"I was mad." Ms Reno said. "When you have a situation where the White House has recognised responsibility to produce the documents, it is very, very frustrating to have them produced in such a delayed fashion. And I also thought that we should have been told immediately, as

AN OUTDOOR

meanwhile, yesterday unearthed a tenyear-old video of President Reagan appealing to Republican donors at the White House, hoping this would counter renewed criticism of their actions last year. The tape, leaked to ABC News and

CNN by Democratic sources, showed Mr Reagan meeting dozens of contributors in the East Room. During the 1987 reception held for the Republican Eagles, the donors who had each given \$10,000 to the party that year, Mr Reagan pledged to "campaign hard" for the Republican nominee and talked about the importance of winning the 1988 presidential election. "And let me ask you now, and I know this is silly, but can I count on you to help?" he asks.



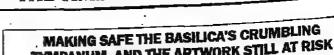
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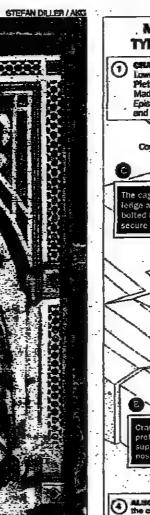
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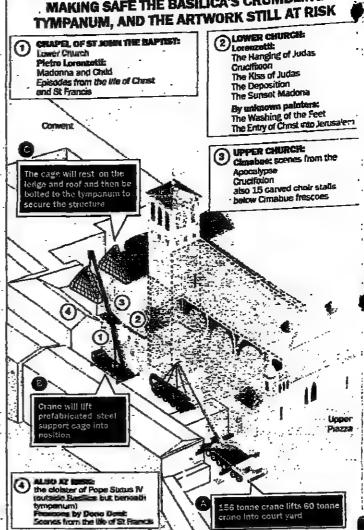


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# Assisi battles to save the frescoes



Firemen check the Madonna atop the church for safety

Richard Owen in Assisi reports on efforts

by engineers, working under crumbling masonry, to win a vital race against time

started mounting an "extremely delicate and dangerous" operation to shore up the Basilica of St Francis by using giant cranes. They said that "one false move" would bring tonnes of masonry crashing down into the church "with the force of a bomb", destroying priceless frescoes by Cimabue and Lorenzetti, a 15th-century cloister and the irreplaceable basilica

Fears centre on the tympanum, a huge, recessed triangular pediment 120ft up on the side of the basilica, above the left transept. It was damaged in the double earthquake two weeks ago, which brought down part of the vaulted ceiling inside the Upper Church, killing four people.

More of the tympanum, which weighs 70 tonnes, crumbled when another earthquake rocked Assisi last Monday. The stones have given way round the triple window at the centre of the pediment, leaving a hole through which the sky is visible.

sky is visible.
"If it falls, either because there is another quake or because we get the rescue operation wrong, the damage will be irreparable," said Giorgio Croci, the engineer in charge, as we watched the huge

cranes manoeuvring into place.
"The tympanum will smash through the roof. We are living a nightmare: to save our heritage, we are putting human life at risk. We have agonised all week about what

Antonio Paolucci, the former Minister of Culture who is overseeing the restoration at Assisi, looks a worried man. "This is a race against time and the next tremor," he said. "The Basilica of St Francis is not only one of the most precious Christian buildings in the world, and a symbol of peace, it contains some of the most important paintings in the history of art."

The basilica has been shored up

The basilica has been shored up with scaffolding over the past two weeks, while restorers finish sifting through the rubble for pieces of fresco behind a high wooden wall, set up to keep out sightseers and potential thieves.

But surveyors are still not sure how unstable the great 13th-century building is. Professor Croci said he would have preferred to dismantle the crumbling tympanum, but this had been ruled out as too risky. Instead a 60-tonne crane with a 60-yard-long telescopic arm will lift a prefabricated steel-mesh cage over the tympanum, where it will rest on a narrow stone shelf and be



The Crucifizion, another of the Lorenzetti artworks at risk

secured by steel bands. Engineers said the priority was to hold the pediment in place, with a decision to be taken later on whether and how to rebuild it. "We have to do something, it's hanging by a thread," Professor Croci said.

In the Upper Church, where the floor has been covered in hundreds of old mattresses as a precaution, the collapse would bring down key frescoes by Cimabue, including Scenes from the Apocalypse, and his magnificent Crucifation, in which the painter shows St Francis kneeling at the foot of the Cross. Both are blackened and faded, but are considered crucial to the birth of Western art.

In the Lower Church, the left transept was mainly decorated by Lorenzetti, who painted the frescoes when he was 30 and at the height of his powers. They depict Judas hanging himself after betraying Jesus; Jesus washing the feet of his disciples; a Crucifixion full of human crowd detail, with the two thieves placed on either side of Jesus for the first time in Western art; The Entry of Christ into Jerusalem, with Jerusalem shown as a Sienese city of crenellat-

the Kiss of Judas, with the first depiction in Italian painting of a starry night sky; and a Deposition. The most admired of the

ed towers in clear, sharp colours;

Lorenzeiti masterpieces is his Madonna and Child with St Francis and St John the Evangelist, more affectionately known as the Sunset Madonna because of the breathtaking impression made when the setting sun strikes the gold of the fresco. The Virgin Mary and the infant Jesus appear to be deep in conversation, while the Virgin points to St Francis: the interpretation in Assisi is that Jesus is asking his mother who loved him more, St Francis or the Beloved Disciple.

Also at risk are the chapel of St John the Baptist, built by the Orsini family, which contains another Madonna and Child by Lorenzetti, and the cloister of Sixtus IV the Fransciscan Pope - reached by a stone staircase near the Lorenzetti frescoes in the Lower Church, Built between 1474 and 1476, the cloister consists of two delicately arched loggias round a courtyard with a rainwater cistern in the middle. The walls bear 16th-century frescoes by Dono Doni, and groundfloor rooms house the library, with 80,000 volumes and thousands of

music and art history.

The Order of Friars Minor Conventual, the branch of the Franciscans which cares for the tomh of St Francis and the Basilica in Assisi, has opened a bank account for those who wish to help. The bank is the Cassa di Risparmio di Perugia. The account is titled Basilica di San Francesco in Assisi, account number: 26000/03 (code: ABI-6235-CABO3001)

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# Iciple Private police put finger on the usual suspects

Residents feel safer, but police are sceptical, says Simon de Bruxelles

f you are young, male, wear a baseball cap, drive an old banger or simply walk down the wrong street in one of Bristol's more affluent suburbs, you might as well consider putting on a striped jumper bearing the word burglar.

If you are lucky, you might have your car number taken. At worst, you will be confronted by a burly ex-serviceman demanding to know your business. For five years, patrols by a private security company called SAS (Security And Systems - not, of course, to be confused with any other organisation) have been policing the streets of Stoke Bishop. Coombe Dingle and Sneyd

Britain's first and longestrunning private police force is constantly vigilant for the young men they call "toe-rags. scrotes and scumbags" on the prowl for anything they can

The patrols are fighting a battle not just against the criminals but against the scepticism of many police. Senior officers believe the company's existence exacerbates fear of

crime, on which its profits depend. But as the ability of the police to curb petty crime comes under challenge, residents of Bristol's greener outposts believe they have a solution. Going other communities are watching closely. Last month, council tenants in

a 50p levy on their rent for their own community squad. Bristol police will not discuss whether crime rates have fallen, but SAS and residents insist the effect has been dramatic. When Phil, an ex-Royal Marine who saw service in Northern Ireland, arrived in Sneyd Park, it was a battleground. On one side, there were the law-abiding citizens large houses. On the other, he saw the "social

bacteria" who preyed on them.

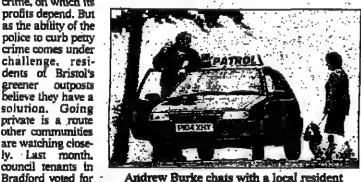
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stolen cars to steal the television or video was a local speciality. Life isn't like that any more, says Phil. The highlight of his week was the theft of an ornamental bird bath. He is optimistic that he has the number of the culprits' The SAS patrols were started by Andrew Burke after

Ram-raiding front doors with

his car was broken into twice and his mother's home was burgled. Mr Burke, 44, was already running a security company employing ex-servicemen when he decided to take action. He said: "We went out on patrol one night and caught two little bastards breaking into a car. We took them to one side and read their futures for them.

Word got back to the residents' association, which was fed up with the increase in crime. The street patrols were born: At first only 160 households signed up. Today there are more than 1,200 paying £1.35 a week for 24-hour patrols by Mr Burke's fulltime team of 12. The men wear informal uniforms of shirt, tie



Andrew Burke chats with a local resident

cars have a roof sign saying Patrol alongside a flashing light. Faces of local suspects appear on "wanted" posters

distributed to members. Mr Burke claims burglaries are down 78 per cent, crimes of violence down 80 per cent, car thefts down 92 per cent, van-dalism down 100 per cent. The Neighbourhood Watch agrees

there has been a big reduction. -Residents of the surround-



SAS's accusations that they are responsible for the crimes. Mr Burke said: "I'm not saying everyone who lives in a council estate is a criminal, but nearly all the criminals live on the estates. You can spot them a mile off. They skulk along looking shifty, they have skinhead cuts, they wear scruffy clothes or drive an old banger they haven't registered. You

can tell they don't belong. We've had death threats, assaults. but they're cowards at heart." A senior police officer was highly critical of Mr Burke's poster campaign naming the police would support private security controls only if the firms

were properly regulated and licensed. However, most residents are delighted. Annie Williams, co-ordinator of the Coombe Dingle neighbourhood watch, said: "Before the patrols started, we felt like we were under siege. If

there is a crime, I will call the police first and the patrol second, but I can call the patrol with petty things that the police don't have the time ing council estates resent or the resources to deal with."

## Where people power has turned to anarchy FROM SAM KILEY

هكذامن رالإمل

CONVERGING on the comfortable middle-class home from two sides, the vigilantes opened fire. At least 300 rounds from pistols, pumpaction shotguns and hunting rifles tore into the building in Hout Bay. Three truckloads of South African police watched, but did nothing.

The force is at least 1,000 men short of the number needed to police Cape Town's gangs, who have senior officers on their payrolls: so to grow out of control. During the Hout Bay attack, alleged drug dealer's house, it took at least 50 police in armoured trucks to arrest three vigilantes.

But most sinister of all have been recent warnings from gang experts that one vigilante group has forced rival gangs into an alliance which could soon take over the economic and political life of

No one was injured in the Hout Bay shooting. But fighting between the gangs and the Muslim-dominated vigilante group People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) has escalated into open war, which has been ignored by the Government.

Cape Town and the Cape Flats, where most Coloured (mixed race) people live, has largely been written off by the ANC as a lost cause.

"The vigilantes have achieved in a month what gang leaders have failed to do over the last four years. Now there is total unity among the gangs;" said Irvin Kinnes, founder of Community Anti-



People Against Gangsterism and Drugs on the march near Cape Town. But their actions have united the gangs

Crime Forum for the Western Cape. A former ANC activist. he grew up in the township of Manenburg which is held in the grip of an estimated 100.000 gangsters. Disgusted by the indifference of the Government, he resigned from the ANC earlier this

Pagad chalked up its most dramatic kill when it lynched Rashaad Staggie, joint leader of the Hard Livings gang 18 months ago. Since then his twin brother, Rashied, has set up an alliance with the Mongrels, Sexy Boys and the Americans under the umbrella of The Firm.

Divided the gangs might have been vulnerable to police infiltration. United, they look unstoppable. Rashied Staggie said recently that he was as

close to all-out war with their hooded enemies. Most of the Pugad attacks have Pagad as I am to my skin". Pagad's main military been on the wrong targets. In branch, G-Force, is widely the past month several childbelieved to have been trained ren have been killed in Pagad overseas by militant Musdrive-by shootings. lims. But, over the past two weeks of hit and counter-hit.

The group's actions, and those of the police, are playing the gangs have proved far more efficient killers than into Staggie's hands, according to Wilfried Scharf, direc-

Institute of Criminology. "A full-scale war would only have one winner - the gangs and there would be nothing to stop them from taking over. The police and administration have been very slow in seeing that vigilantes will bring only disaster."

tor of Cape Town University's

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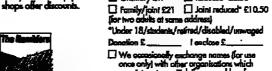


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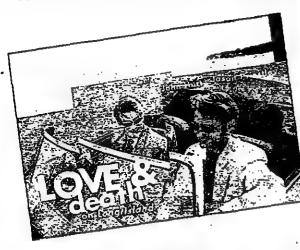
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# British film: it's a lottery

subsidies, says Dominic Kennedy



erary romp starring Stephen Fry as Oscar, opens on Friday, it will become the most heavily subsidised British film ever released. Its fate at the box office will also be watched nervously by the entire British film industry.

The film, which portrays the writer as a promiscuous homosexual but also a loving father and husband, was made only because the National Lottery stepped in where big film companies feared to tread with a loan of El 5 million.

Wilde is spearheading a new generation of subsidised films that owe their existence to an unprecedented outpouring of government generosity. Some £940 million of extra investment will be channelled into film production during the next six years through ministerial initiatives, enough to make 250 sequels to Four Weddings and a Funeral.

British producers an opportunity to stop churning out Merchant Ivory nostalgia romps and comedies about the class system. The most keenly awaited lottery film is Shooting Fish, which received a



Movie makers are queuing up for Lottery winners and losers, from the top: Helena Bonham Carter and Sam Neill in The Revengers' Comedies: Jon Bon Jovi and Thandie Newton in The Leading Man; Kate Beckinsale in Shooting Fish Stephen Fry in the title role, with Jennifer Ehle as his wife, Constance. in the heavily subsidised Wilde have to be overtly commercial. E980,000 loan. It is a comedy PAYDAY FOR THE BRITISH FILM INDUSTRY en Wilde, a lit-There is plenty of room for more sophisticated movies." about confidence tricksters. 6 We heard that CREENLICHT FUND PRODUCTION AWARDS: starring Kate Beckinsale, and £100 million from the £10 million of lottery Terry llott, author of My has an indie music soundtrack the Arts lottery over six years to make 200 extra low-bud Indecision is Final about the featuring Space and the decline of Goldcrest Films, Council's view said: "Why is film a good Love and Death on Long was that we cause? It's not. Film produc-Island (£750,000) casts John tion is almost quintessentially Hurt as an English widower would finance a venture capital business. The who becomes obsessed with an American teen heart-throb very existence of lottery fund-The Leading ing as subsidy removes from played by Jason Priestley. given £92 milli from the lotter the producer a very large part of the consequences of failure." Bent (£560,000) features Mick Man anyway, players to sp over six years Jagger as a drag queen and Clive Owen as a gay man so why give the tax breaks for films thrown into a Nazi concentraim Adler, deputy editor of Screen Fition camp. money to us? 🤊 annual investment by However, there are pitfalls many films are being made. This is pushing costs Julia Palau's request for a loan was turned down the next three years, ahead as well as opportunities. The creative spark of the lean, up. Daily rates for set riggers and lighting and sound men increase by about 10 per cent each time they move between say why and all Mrs Palau scaled new heights. Gordon Brown's first Budget included hungry film-maker chasing never repaid. Margaret Thathad to go on was rumour. money in the free market cher eventually scrapped the 'We heard that the view was HELP FROM CHANNEL 4: foundation. tax breaks to increase annual might be dimmed by a new extra £16 million to make films in first two years of financial restructuring, goinvestment by £240 million. Chris Smith, the Culture Secgeneration of flabby executives Government support was revived after Julia Palau, that we would finance it addicted to subsidy. The extra anyway, so why give it to us?" she said. (The company did shead given by Chris Smith 1997 Two even bigger gambles than Wilde are one for release retary, changed Channel 4's whose J&M Entertainment money is already leading to higher costs as the limited made What's Eating Gilbert finances so that it can spend a finance it and the film has just Grape? and Kiss of the Spiderwoman, joined forces number of experienced technifurther £16 million on making been released, to lukewarm Carter alongside Sam Neill won a loan and the film will be in coming months: an untitled Mike Leigh project and Swept From The Sea, based on the cians and craftspeople sell films in 1998 and 1999. and Kristin Scott Thomas. released next year. The civil servants took so their skills to the highest with the broadcaster Barry Yet the secrecy and red tape So when J&M backed Some experts say that Britsurrounding lonery applica-tions have left film-makers Joseph Conrad novel Amy Norman. "We targeted Virginanother film seeking lottery long that the stars began to ish cinema cannot cope with the avalanche of cash. Wendy The new money at last gives Some fear the lottery will ia Bottomley and took her out funding, The Revengers' Comfret. "Helena Bonham Carter Foster. Each was lent £2 milrepeat the mistakes of the to lunch and told her what's bewildered. When Mrs Palau edies, it advised the producer. was really responsible for Palmer, sales agent for Secrets tion from the lottery. keeping the cast together."
Mrs Palau said. "She was very So far reaction to Wilde has discredited National Film Fiwhat," Mrs Palau said. Mrs sought a loan of £890,000 for Siroon Bosanquer, to apply critics and made £33 million at stranged from The Daily Tele-the box office, said. I am a graph, which tipped it for an nance Foundation, created by Bottomley made film a Nat-J&M's The Leading Man, a under his own name. The Arts ional Lottery "good cause". By Council began considering a £950,000 loan to Artisan Films belpful in calling the other Harold Wilson in the 1940s. "sexy thriller" starring Jon Bon Jovi in London's theatre-Ltd. The "riotous British comturkeys with donated £200 million to it. land, the claim was rejected. government forces deciding what films are The Arts Council refused to edy" stars Helena Bonham "loans", many of which were Labour's generosity Eventually Mr Bosanquet The COPERATIVE BANK THE SUNDAY TIME The coperative bank



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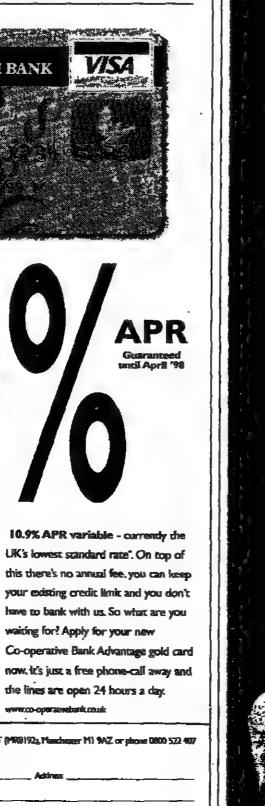
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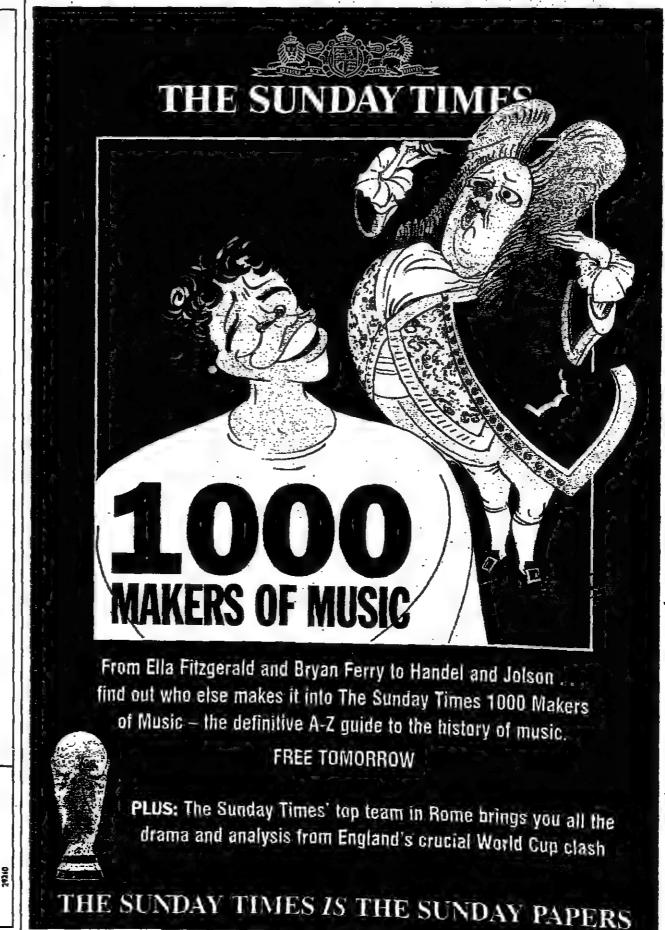
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# The model of a modern Queen



Queen Noor of Jordan: the student activist at Princeton was an unlikely candidate for royalty

Then Queen Noor of Jordan arrived at the Savoy for the Women of the Year lunch on Monday, she was surrounded by a frenzy of popping flashbulbs. "Is it like that, wherever you go?" I asked her later. "Absolutely not," she replied. But it was plain to see why it happened. Those cameramen are bereft without their Princess. When a royal blonde, tall and slender and of quite exceptional beauty, hoves into view, they cannot resist.

"Enough! Enough! Go now, all of you!" A formidable luncheon organiser of headmistressy bearing soon had the lensmen cowering. Queen Noor had come to address 500 high-achieving women with an inspiring speech; and as it happened, to visit one of her sons in the sick bay at his English public school, "Like most working mothers," she said, "I never feel I am doing anything well enough."

Queen Noor, née Lisa Halaby, grew up in Washington and Califormia; her father of Syrian descent, her mother Swedish, hence the direct blue eyes, blonde mane and totally American manner.

When she met King Hussein 20 years ago and became "Light of Hussein" - Noor Al Hassein -Queen of the small Hashemite desert kingdom, she had been working as an architect. Since then she has become the very model of a modern Queen: a statesmanlike figure, airing her views freely across the world. When she gave her first political speech, in Washington in 1982, on the Middle East peace process, the Washington Post sent along a Style section reporter who wrote about her clothes: curse of the prominent woman. (Even Madeleine Albright does not escape this treatment: the current New Yorker notes that an aide carries her lipstick.) On the other hand, Queen Noor's looks -5ft 10in, slim and chic - are extremely noticeable; her wit and quick intelligence strike later.

She was an unlikely candidate for Queen. She hadn't the slightest interest in royalty. She was a student activist at Princeton, one of the few women in its first co-ed year, reading architecture and urban planning. She stood on teargassed picket lines in anti-Vietnam demos. "But then," she says, "l married an unusual man."

It happened by chance: Lisa was working with Marietta Tree at Llewelyn-Davis, Weeks, the British firm commissioned to replan Tehran. Later, she was in Jordan working on a plan for a pan-Arab aviation university. Uninvited, she accompanied her father (aviation chief in the Kennedy years, and sometime Pan-Am president) to the palace. "One could say that the romance blossomed by chance." She was 25; King Hussein had lost his third wife in an air crash. a royal role might have been a blueprint

Jordan can boast a woman whose success in

for another Princess, had she been luckier

They conducted their courtship despite security guards and the gaze of Amman society, by riding off on his BMW motorcycle: "Those were exhilarating moments of free-

dom, I have to say."

She inherited eight stepchildren and has four of her own, aged 11 to 17: two sons, Harnzah and Hashim, two daughters, Iman and Raiyah. Her sons will follow their father to Sandhurst, The King's younger brother remains Crown Prince, but otherwise "Who knows what destiny will call them to?"

When she made her first political



speech, she says fondly, her husband telephoned as she was leaving and said: "I've just realised the position I've put you in. I've taken a Valium." But the anxious King soon realised that he could rely on his wife to deliver on his behalf a forceful message to the Americans.

"Obviously an American audi-ence would listen to me differently from an Arab official. They think of me as one of their own. They identify with me, which gave me a special credibility. When I questioned American policy in the Middle East, it didn't earn me friends within certain political administrations. But I wanted to break down stereotypes and prejudice about the Arab world. I tried to present the too-often hidden human tragedy of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We were not as adept as the pro-Israeli lobby in the US at getting our message across."

In the early days each speech was a mammoth effort. "I would do about 15 drafts: it was like cramming for finals. I was most apprehensive about the Q and As. Esp-

ecially at the Kennedy Institute at Harvard in the middle of a major Middle East crisis." They asked her what it was like being one of the first girls at Princeton, Answer: "An excellent preparation for living in the Arab world." Her husband, educated at Har-

row and Sandhurst, witnessed at 15 the assassination of his grandfather; a bullet caught him but was deflected by a medal on his tunic, At 17 he succeeded to the throne and has reigned for 46 years. His 12 children, and even more grandchildren, gather regularly: "It's a typical Middle Eastern family." Queen Noor keeps in touch with her American family by e-mail: she finds cyberspace congenial ("people get in touch who I haven't heard from in years") and was proud when http://www.noor.gov.jo was

named Website of the Week. Having taken feminism granted when growing up ("I've never been an 'isms' person"), she set about improving the lot of Jordanian women through her Noor Al Hussein Foundation. Her pet project, the co-ed Jubilee School, has produced three mathematics and physics wizards, all girls of 17. Queen Noor's conversation is peppered with "Contrary to West-

ern perceptions ..." "Few West-erners realise ..." She constantly confronts our assumption that all women in Islam are subjugated creatures with covered heads. The Muslim world embraces many societies. As many Jordanian women as men go to university. Levels of literacy and health approach those of the developed world. Women in the labour force have doubled in 20 years, though they lag behind in government and the judiciary, but they have had the vote only since 1974.

Her quality-of-life project has been transforming rural women from unpaid drudges into entrepreneurs, turning their homes into cottage industries of bee-keeping. growing thyme and sage, weaving furniture from banana and palm leaves. She raised her biggest laugh in her Savoy speech when she described one of the new entrepreneurial women's husbands who, "himself unemployed, sits all day watching his wife's prospering weaving business ... He wants to know if we can find him another wife like that." It is tough being a oueen in the

modern world: visible, involved and "of the people". She cites role models from Arab history - warrior queens, peacemakers and educators from the 3rd-century

Queen Zenobia onwards - and says Islam long preceded the West in granting women status and property rights. She embraced Islam wholeheartedly on marriage. having no religion before, "and I feel it was the right choice. I don't regret it: I only regret the stereotypes, the distortion of its message in the West, caused by contemporary fundamentalist movements which misrepresent the teachings of Islam." She covers her long fair tresses only in religious places.

Arabic remains a struggle but she felt she had assimilated into her new life when she started to dream in Arabic. "It's a beautiful, rich, complex language, and the younger you learn it the better." She made a point of having Arabicspeaking helpers and her children are effortlessly bilingual.

Tourism, vital to Israel, Egypt and Jordan, depends utterly on the precarious peace process; every terrorist attack in neighbouring countries affects them all. Jordan, bordered by Iraq, Israel, Syria and Saudi Arabia, is "a peaceful, moderate, clean oasis. Thank God for our stability, which has strengthened us through innumerable crises around us, especially during the Gulf crisis and the ups and downs of the peace process. But our political system is not exclusive of extremist points of view, our elections contested by the full range from Left to Right." Most people in Jordan, she added, feel they're "awfully lucky".

e discussed the confines of royal life: she spoke of the Emperor Hirohito, by inclination a marine biologist, who gave her sea-loving younger son one of his books. (They're also a family of musicians: I wish I'd been able to persuade my children to carry on with their violin and piano lessons.") Didn't she long to use her architectural degree? It turns out she takes a Prince of Wales-like interest in traditional building styles and, in the seaside town of Aqaba, which was "in danger of being overdeveloped with huge concrete excrescences", has supervised a model for future building in the traditional style, using local natural stone. "It's a constant battle, but we persevere."

She also succeeded the Prince of Wales as president of the United World Colleges. Education is foremost in her projects and programmes, which run to 27 A4 pages. A queen has to be interested in everything. "Well, luckily, I am. And I am blessed with the advantage of the long term, instead of depending on the length of a political administration only."

It is impossible not to think of another potential queen, for whom her friend Noor might have been a blueprint, who was less lucky.

EARLIER this year Edward VIIIand Mrs Simpson were the joint stars of a dire West End musical called Always. It was billed as the "ultimate love story" and took its title from the Imaginary paradise where the Prince and his belle dreamed of spending the rest of their lives. But the action ended in 1937, so we did not see what sort of

Snoo Wilson's outrageously enjoyable, if somewhat static, twohander provides an answer.



housean dimwit with a wife whose

### Royal love story with a Hell of an ending confounded even Jeeves. Imagine

Bertie Wooster in the clutches of Lady Macbeth, and you have the picture that Corin Redgrave and Amanda Donohoe present.

If the parties were alive they would be suing Wilson and his director, Simon Callow, for millions. The accusation isn't just that,

as late as 1943, Edward admired drei, on a man he suspected of having an affair with Wallis. Hitler and still hoped to be ruling a Nazi Britain alongside Queen Wallis. It is that, as Governor of the Bahamas, he transferred huge

Redgrave wins a certain sympathy for a chappie who seems a lot happier darning his teddy bear or knitting funny little scarves than attending to the business of the island. If he is morally near-

imbecilie, it is partly because pleasing Wallis takes precedence and partly because he has never quite escaped the royal nursery.

Windsors, as represented by a grim George V and a grimmer Queen Mary, is one of Wilson's targets. But an insecure and sometimes violent background seems a

poor excuse for Wallis's unequivocal nastiness. She keeps her husband in thrall by playing sexual

running or executed for treason. and I'll be left without a penny." she yells at him. With this gogetting monster in effortless command, Always isn't just Government House or the Bahamas. Always is a Strindbergian Hell.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

place it actually was.

# PIRIL PLANTS

#### Always is the Bahamas in 1943, "a fetid little backwater" where the love story is going decidedly awry. As played by Corin Redgrave, HRH the Governor is a Wode-

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Chairing the Arts Council isn't for amateurs, says Magnus Linklater

anted: thick-skinned art lover prepared to withstand outraged public opinion. lobby ministers relentlessly, chair highpowered committees with charm and skill, learn to say no firmly but tactfully, handle a budget of some £400 million. and give up three to four days a week for no pay. Not, on the surface, a dream job. But there will, I suspect, be no lack of applicants for the post that Lord Gowrie will vacate next May. The question is whether any of the rich or the retired who reckon they can afford to apply will be able to cope.

Chairing the Arts Council of England these days is no cosy sinecure, no exercise for the gifted amateur, with some agreeable evenings at the opera thrown in. It is, for one thing, hugely demanding, not just in time but in sheer concentration of effort. The steady erosion of government support for the arts has meant that crisis management rather than genial supervision has become almost routine. Defending controversial decisions on the Royal Opera House or the handling of lottery funds, goes hand in hand with long hours spent arguing against cutbacks, or pleading the case for the arts with cash-strapped local

Lord Gowrie admits that if he has failed, it is over money. Despite lengthy sessions with the previous Chancellor and Prime Minister, he has seen the Treasury extract its pound of flesh and institute cutbacks which the present Government has said it intends to

"Maybe the next chairman will be more successful," he writes in this week's New Statesman. "If she or he is, I shan't be jealous. I'm a good parodist, and I shall write a Baroque ode in the manner of Dryden in their honour." His successor will need more than the Gowrie gift of parody to handle some of the decisions the council is likely to face in from standstill or reduced budgeting are increasingly hard choices on revenue-funded theatres, hard-pressed galleries or companies whose very existence depends on Arts Council support. For some it is no longer a case of death by a thousand cuts, but simply death. And it is the chairman. ultimately, who administers the last rites and explains to

When I took on the job of Chairman of the Scottish Arts Council last year, I was reas-sured that it would take a modest day or day-and-a-half of my week. Two things threw the prediction out. The first was the National Lottery, which has doubled our funding but also doubled the amount of time required to discuss and handle sensitive decisions. The second was the almost permanent crisis facing the so-called national companies of Scotland - Scottish Opera. Scottish Ballet, the

the bereaved why it had to

Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra - all, to a lesser or greater degree, in financial trouble. They became, for me, the equivalent of Lord Gowrie's Covent Garden trauma. When, after many months of agonising delibera-tion, we reached a point at which the entire board of Scottish Ballet was forced to stand down, all hell broke

I have faced the occasional

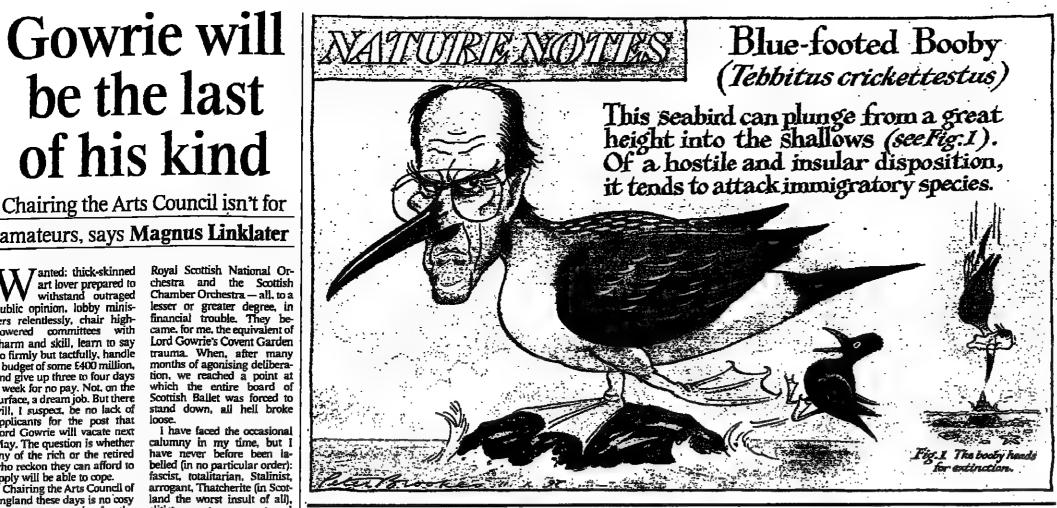
calumny in my time, but I have never before been labelled (in no particular order): fascist, totalitarian, Stalinist, arrogant, Thatcherite (in Scotland the worst insult of all), elitist, remote, arrogant and unaccountable. That may seem extreme, but when gluttons for punishment - our council also withheld funding from a much-loved theatre company and refused support for a strongly lobbied film project, they were repeated in spades. The assumption was that we had turned into something akin to serial art killers, pursuing some secret agenda

This, as Lord Gowrie points

out, is nothing new. The Arts Council and its bureaucracy is always the first port of abuse, because those who administer the arts in Britain care passionately about what they are doing and react with equal passion when constrained. But things are getting worse. The financial straitjacket is being drawn tighter, the crises are building. With diminishing funds, what confronts us now is a complex and delicate argument about the use of the lottery. It is one that Lord Gowrie has begun to frame: if, he says, the Treasury is to continue to bleed the arts to death, then arts councils must be allowed to use lottery funds the way they want rather than the way they are told to. The danger is that, if the argument is accepted, some future government could cut its grants altogether and use the lottery as a substitute — in effect,

o Lord Gowrie's successor will need deft political skills and the mind of a Machiavelli. He or she will be chosen under the new Nolan rules, and therefore the job will be widely advertised. But with no salary attached. the choice may turn out to be limited. However admirable the concept of chairing public bodies without recompense, the number of those who can afford the time - or com-panies who can release executives without counting the cost - is limited, and growing smaller. I write as one who is, in fact, paid a fee, and I believe in the end that it is an inevitable process. But I accept that it would mark the end of a

noble tradition. Perhaps the Government should be offered a deal: proper funding for the arts in return for the concept of public service without financial reward. You cannot really have



# Sitting pretty in Europe

taying in Florence this week, I have watched at close quarters the struggle for a certain kind of Europe that has been unfolding in Rome. It is a struggie which is "typically Italian" in the hectic haggling between part-ners in the coalition which sustained the Government of Professor Romano Prodi; but it is also one which seeks a more decisive break with the Italian postwar tradition of corporatist accommodation. It is a struggle whose outcome will be critical for the future of a more integrated Europe and for European economic and

monetary union (EMU) in particular.
Signor Prodi's resignation on Thursday evening, after the week in which he failed to find a compromise with his Communist partners in the coalition, was not the end but merely staging post in his and others' efforts to turn Italy into a credible, founding member of EMU. It was a challenge to his country as much as to the Opposition; a challenge to sup-

port a national consensus on Europe. If, Signor Prodi was saying, a more inte-grated union is what you want, there is a price to pay. The Communists have so far preferred to destroy the first Governwar than to pay it. Over now to the country.

The Italian Prime Minister's travails are shared, in differing ways, by Lionel Jospin of France and Helmut Kohl of Germany. Britain is presently in a protected space. Tony Blair enjoys an amnesty in Britain's Euro-wars — though the spectacle of John Major, cheered in Blackpool for being a gallant loser, will have reminded him that this is a pause in,

not an end of, the battle.

It may have reminded him, too, of the causes of his good fortune. He can propose a third way between Thatcherism and Euro-corporatism because new Labour is founded on a decorporatised state. He can refuse a return to "beer and sandwiches" because the main consumers of these delicacies — the trade union leaders - are no longer in a condition to claim them as of right. Margaret Thatcher laid waste the shaky legacles of previous governments' attempts to construct a British version of a social partnership; its debacle in the 1970s is engraved on the collective memories of all parties, and it will not be tried again by this Prime Minister.

John Lloyd finds Blairism irrelevant to the crisis of the continental corporatists

continental counterparts should be so lucky. Caught still in networks of obligation to which no one has taken an axe, they must now seek to accommodate their economies to globalisation through negotiation and compromise within the system and between the social partners.

Germany remains mired in a crisis of unemployment. Earlier this week, the adjusted figures rose to just under five million, or 11.7 per cent. In the eastern Länder, a fifth of the workforce is unemployed, and many other jobs there are sustained only by subsidies which the State must now reduce. At the same time, both German and foreign capital shrink from major investments: direct investment remains negative with a net outflow of nearly DM900 million

Tony Blair

tends to be

smug about

his partners'

to June of this year. The reason seems simple enough: average hourly iges stand at around £17. In the US, where jobs are plentiful, the average hour-ly wage is around £10. Chancellor Kohl has

ployment by 2000; the date creeps closer but the trends do not look hopeful. The German budget contains provision for 100,000 fewer unemployed than there are likely to be this year; the extra costs will blow holes in it and

further compromise the credibility of the euro in the state which must be its main pillar. Kohi has a Left opposition in the Social Democrats (SPD), which, though unable to win elections in the past decade, remains powerful, closely linked to trade unions which have

retained industrial and political muscle. But the SPD probably has no more big ideas on unemployment than does Kohl's Centre-Right coalition. There is little sense yet that here is an alternative force able to

galvanise the country.

The Left does rule in France, and it also gives as yet little sense of a new momentum. Instead, it is being pulled into an enervating round of negotiations in its proposal to cut the working week to 35 hours as a way of fighting unemployment — a proposal which was a firm plank of its campaign in Opposition, and which now faces a united rejection from the Patronat, the employers' federation. That oragnisation's president, Jean Gandois, is a friend and former employer of Martine Aubry, the Employment Minister and number two in the Cabinet; he has, however,

and Jospin

are all in

a similar

torpedo the working week reduction. Lionel Jospin is stretched on the rack between the bosses and the Communists on whom he relies for his majority, just as Prodi relies on the Italian equivalent for his. Robert Hue, the French CP leader, insists on a law guaranteeing a 35-hour week without a reduction in pay. On the other side of the table, François Mer, the chief executive of the Usinor group, told Le Monde this week: "If, to give work to a million

assured his members that the friend-

ship comes second to their aim: to

people, you threaten the employment of 20 million others, you would have scored something of an own goal." Thus proceeds the edu-

cation of the French Left. writes the former Tory MP George Walden in the current issue of Prospect, "is that the French are coming to the

end of a period in which they enjoyed the best of both worlds, capitalism and collectivism." If this is a political truth — and it seems to be — then it is true beyond France. The globalisation and information explosions have detonated everywhere, privileging not just M Mer's consumers but people like himself - able as he is to brandish the laws of 21st-century global competition in the faces of European politicians walled in by national imperatives which stem from their postwar political

Tony Blair and new Labour tend to be smug about their continental partners' troubles. The solution, as they see it, is an emulation of the new Labour approach: rising above entanglements and compromises to an articulation of national goals and economic truths, while devolving such messy issues as hours and wages to the actors in the marketplace. Some of this lay behind Mr Blair's hubristic rhetoric at his party

"destiny to lead" in Europe - a formulation which seems absurd from a continental perspective while Britain stands aside from the grand project which consumes every other member of the union: EMU.

But Mr Blair is positioned on ground that was cleared in the 1980s. His fellow leaders cannot rise above the systems which both constrain and empower them; nor, even if they could, should they. The institutions of social cohesion to which countries traumatised by dictatorships and war naturally cling are not to be casually brushed aside, even where they must be reformed.

Reform is coming, but not in new Labour guise. Germany is no ailing giant; it has recovered its share of world exports after a dip and is decentralising negotiations on working practices and on wage-setting, especially in the east, to cope with the need for greater flexibility. Jospin has dropped the 35-hour week and is

likely to be more attracted to the kind of employment schemes the Patronat would tolerate than to a Prodi, Kohl central command to cut hours, which would be at best temporary in its ameliorative effect.

predicament politics he has attempted to champion in the past 18 months hang in the bal-

ance. "The Italians," he told his parliament, "do not want to go back to continually shifting coalitions and unstable governments." In that he seems right; the media reacted to his resignation yesterday with acute disappointment that the old, selfish party politics should again dominate. He may fail. But it seems more likely that the open, purposeful politics he has attempted to ingrain

into Italian public life will not pass away in favour of a bout of pointless financial lubrication. He has been successfully tough in reducing the budget deficit by £38 billion and in bringing inflation down to 1.4 per cent. The goal of the Italian political class remains EMU membership. and high costs have already been paid for its realisation. High costs are being paid across the Continent Britain, relaxed and booming, has paid some of these costs in the past but faces another bill soon.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman.

# A book of snobs so what?

Simon Barnes says Anthony Powell's

critics miss the point

t is shot through with every snobbery of old Britain. He dwells too much on a narrow, privileged world. He is interested only in the upper classes. It is anathema to the best intellectual

All these words were written in the past few days in pieces largely favourable to A Dance to the Music of Time, Anthony Powell's 12-volume roman-fleuve. The first of the four two-hour television episodes of the Dance was shown on Thursday, to a mixed critical reaction. I enjoyed the thing myself, even if it did remind me a little of Monty Python's

summarise Proust competition". It is intriguing that Powell still presents a problem, even to his fans. Evelyn Waugh's passionate adoration of the aristocracy is seen rightly — as an essential aspect of Brideshead Revisited. Powell has no such love: he accepts his aristocratic characters matter-of-factly, as people you bump into, people who knock about the world like everybody else.

And that, for some people, is unforgivable. "Unfortunately his oeuvre at present is lacking any real sense of social significance," said the left-wing critic J.G. Quiggin. Which says it all, although Quiggin is in fact a character in the Dance, here discussing another character.

There is something about Powell's work that brings out the workingclass hero who lurks in every middleclass heart, waiting only to meet a genuine patrician to be let loose. Powell's fans can argue, and rightly. that there are very many non-aristo-crats in the Dance - more than in Shakespeare. But the snobbery is always there: quiet, understated, the more gailing for that.

Powell's memoirs are full of genea logies, more fascinating to the author than to his readers. His diaries are full of annoying remarks about wine. There is no more point in defending Powell's snobbery than in defending Kipling's imperialism. "A novelist writes what he is. That

is equally true of authors who deal with medieval romance, or journeys to the Moon." Words of the novelist X Trapnel, which go some way to covering Powell and his social assumptions. Trapnel, although not an aristocrat - decidedly down- at-heel. in fact - is a character in the Dance. Many people dislike Powell because they dislike the world he portrays, and count themselves morally serious beings for doing so. But this is like saying *Ulysses* is a bad book because you have never cared for Dublin. I am a stand-up-and-becounted whale-saver myself, but I could not get through Whale Nation. which shares my views. Moby Dick, however, is one of the best things I have ever read. To disapprove of Melville on eco-moral grounds misses both the point and a treat.

To write off Powell for socialpolitical reasons is just as bad. The moral importance of a book does not depend on the political views the author held, any more than it depends on the kind of life he led. X. Trapnel, talking of Satyricon and dealing prophetically with the ques-tion of political correctness in the novel, asks: "Who cares which way Trimalchio voted, or that he was a bit

The fact that people are still uncomfortable about the Dance the last novel was published 22 years ago, the first 42 years ago — is perhaps a sign not of its failings but of its greatness. The best fiction in English since the war? I think so.

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The state of the s

temperamental towards his slaves?"

Never trust the teller, trust the tale.

# Panel pinned

WHY does the Booker Prize always end in controversy? This year, I gather, a dispute has already broken out before the verdict has been delivered. The judges have been banned from attending the party before the awards ceremony next week to prevent them from leaking their

with the panel's decision, is said to have let slip the result. This year the five judges, including authors Lady Rachel Billington and Dan Jacobson, will be shut in a

when one of the judges, the author

A.N. Wilson, apparently unhappy

small room and drip-fed champagne while guests socialise outside. At dinner, the judges will crouch at an isolated table until the chairman announces the winner. It is likely to be awkward, since they are usually on blood-letting terms after hours of bickering. We have spent an awful lot of time reading these books and we are now being treated very badly,"

says one judge. "I feel strongly about this." But Carmen Callil.

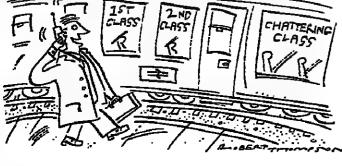
decision to other guests (or. worse, the media). They are not happy.

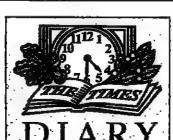
This follows an incident last year chairman of last year's prize, has little sympathy: "It's quite right that they should dine separately.

They're jolly lucky to get fed at all."

■BAD news for Chris Patten.

Hints that he will slip back into Westminster by inheriting John Major's Huntingdon seat have been ruled out. Before the election, the then PM privately assured his local party that he would serve the full term of this Parliament. He renewed this pledge recently. I also gather that Major has been told, curtly, that even if he were to step down, the seat is not his to hand on a silver salver to Patten. Looks as if the former Governor will have to loiter in France for a bit longer.





# No offence

to prove how terribly maligned he is has, er, failed. This one begins with his Tatton election campaign and an advertisement taken in a local paper by Mohamed Al Fayed. It promoted a book entitled Sleaze. Funnily enough. Mr Hamilton features in it. Believing the "offensive" ad undermined his candidature, he com-

IT JUST isn't Neil Hamilton's life.

The disgraced MP's latest attempt

plained to the Advertising Standards Authority. The judgment seemed to be swinging Hamilton's way, but then Sir Gordon ● OLD TIMES

JEFFREY ARCHER'S COM for unity surprised some who 'You wouldn't buy a used car off this Government." To charges of disloyalty he replied: "I'm the senior volunteer in the party, so I can Downey published his report. The ASA's verdict: "If he had been involved in 'sleaze' and the contents of the book were broadly true, then the complaint was unwarranted."

● THERE is a bloodthirsty tone to the CV of James Purefoy, trouser interest in the televisual adaptation of Anthony Powell's uppercrust yarn, A Dance to the Music of Time. Before hitting drama school, young Purefoy had embarked on a career as a piglet-castrator in Somerset. "I could get through 50 little pigs a day," he recalls. "I'm not squeamish in the least — we

grew up next door to an abattoir."

#### charge of plans to celebrate his parents' golden wedding anniversary

Soppy date PRINCE EDWARD has taken



at the Festival Hall in November. His theme? Romance, and the enduring nature of marriage.

"It's all been Edward's idea." says a courtier. It is a "family celebration" for 250 friends including all the Royal Families of Europe, plus 2,700 guests paying £400 a throw. Senior actors will play roles from Shakespeare. Sophie Rhys-Jones, Prince Edward's friend, might be interested to hear that they will act out scenes from Ro-

● DRAINED after a bumpy conference. William Hague is to recu-

meo and Juliet.

perate among the beer-and-chips crowd on the Costa Brava. He will be joined by Sebastian Coe, who spent most of last week grumbling that he had not had time to scamper across Blackpool's golden beach. He will meet retired British members of the Conservatives Abroad Group in the resort of Calpe, a mecca for bunkered Thatcherites. Hague will be welcomed on Monday by the Anglo-phile Mayor, the bracing Javier Maroto, who makes Franco look like a Heathite. And he thought being leader would be fun ...

· NEW TIMES THE First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Jock Stater, has been required to give a urine sample to prove he is not on drugs as part of a clampdown by the Ministry of Defence, which says: "He wes negative but he had to be treated like everyone else."



HOPING to boost his ageing PARTY TIME West End musical, Les

Miserables, Cameron Mackintosh threw a party. So when the I'm worried that it would be curtain fell on Wednesday evening, chorus girls rushed to join Mackintosh and his director. Trevor Nunn, for bubbly and chicken satays in the basement of the Palace Theatre. Talk turned to Diana, The

Musical, which Mackintosh, I gathered, might produce. "Someone in California has sent me a script," he said coyly, "but

Luvvy to see your Cameron Mackintosh and chorus girls

rather bad taste to do it so soon." Trevor Nunn appeared less reticent. "It's an interesting idea," he admitted. "Some might say we have a duty to bring the tragedy to life. Andrew Lloyd Webber would be perfect to compose it, but it would be too painful for him - he was such a close friend of Diana's. We all were." Hmm . . .

JASPER GERARD



### CHANGE AND THE TORIES

Hague learns the lessons of failure - and success

For the second time in a fortnight, a political leader stood before his party yesterday and told them truths that left them a little bewildered. Tony Blair had already lectured his activists on the hard choices that would face Labour in government. William Hague tried to explain to his supporters why they were out of tune with the country and what they needed to do to win back the trust of the people. Neither audience was entirely happy with the prescription; but for neither is there any alternative.

Mr Hague came to Blackpool as unsure of his activists as they were of him. They have been pleasantly surprised by his confidence, assurance and oratorical skills. To field him on Tuesday straight after John Major was a clever way of reminding the party how lacking in these skills his predecessor had been. Mr Hague is the first party leader since Neil Kinnock who has oratory in his blood.

This week the new young leader began to grow the roots of loyalty that have such a fierce hold in the Conservative Party. He appealed over the heads of his MPs to the activists in the hall, offering them more power and supporting their analysis that it was the parliamentary party that was to blame for the general election defeat. This bond of loyalty should repay him when the members are given a large share of the votes in any future leadership election. MPs may snipe at Mr Hague, but if party members have, as expected, nearly 40 per cent of the votes, he is unlikely to be ousted,

His position has also been buttressed by the fact that his prescription for change bringing a greater humanity, tolerance and compassion to the Tory party - has been reinforced by Michael Portillo. Had Mr Hague's move been disdained by the Right. he would have opened up a vulnerable flank. As it is, his combination of Euroscepticism and liberal social policies is now sanctified by his main leadership opponent — and creates the potential for the party to begin its climb back to popular esteem.

If some vocal Conservative activists thought this week that defeat was entirely the fault of MPs, others have understood that two other factors were also at work, bad government and harsh rhetoric. The conference audience refused on Tuesday to accept that John Major himself should take some share of the blame. Mr Hague, however, hinted as much, both by apologising - at last - for the debacle of the ERM, and by notably failing to mention his predecessor by name during the entire course of his speech.

Regaining their reputation for competence will, as Labour discovered, be a frustrating process for the Tories. Margaret Thatcher was still reminding voters of Labour's winter of discontent 11 years after the fact; Tony Blair will keep memories of Black Wednesday alive too. But Mr Hague has learnt another lesson from Mr Blair: his only power in Opposition is over his party. and if he reforms the party successfully, and demonstrates leadership over his MPs, he may find a platform for power.

As for abandoning the rhetoric of intolerance and learning the language of compassion, Mr Hague and his colleagues made a start this week. The Tory party's most necessary transformation is to come to terms with the social and cultural changes that their own economic reforms unleashed. It will take time for party members to adjust to the new reality. Some will never do so. But, if Mr Hague's conversion is genuine, and if he continues to preach it, new members will be attracted to the Conservatives. And that, as Mr Blair could tell him, is the necessary start of a process of renewal.

#### **BLOOD ON THE PARQUET**

Allegations of conspiracy and counter-conspiracy rock France

France has never been a happy hunting ground for the investigative journalist. One reason that it took so long for the political and financial scandals of the Mitterrand years to emerge, or even for the shameful truths about Vichy to be properly investigated and acknowledged, is France's strong culture of respect for the State and its servants, buttressed by a forbidding array of laws ancient and modern against bringing either into disrepute. Even today, the rare televised interviews with the President are so reverent that, to envious politicians elsewhere, they have the flavour of a royal audience. Allpolls show that the French like it that way.

Two journalists of the satirical journal Canard Enchaine have now ruptured this smooth veneer. In doing so, they have united the entire political class, from President Chirac down, against them and — as France's journalists nervously anticipate — against the media in general. Their sensational book, which without naming names or providing proof accuses two leading French politicians of ordering the security forces to murder a French MP, may well have played foul with the rules of evidence. What is certain is that they have flouted the usual constraints that govern relations.

between politics and the press. For M Chirac, this thin volume "threatens French democracy, the rule of law, our liberties and personal dignity". It should do nothing of the kind in a confident democracy, equipped with some of Europe's stiffest libel and privacy laws. He would have been wiser to await the courts' verdict. The political rush to judgment indicates nervousness that true or false, the book directs an inwelcome spotlight on the least salubrious corner of French democracy, the political riper's nest of the Côte d'Azur.

One name, that of Yann Plat, has come to symbolise public disquiet about the mysterinus failures of the French judiciary to solve a

string of murders and suspicious suicides in the Midi, which have involvement in politics and organised crime as their linking thread. The woman her supporters call Yann d'Arc was a beautiful, fiery right-wing MP publicly sworn to expose the deeply corrupt politics of her native South of France, including suspected links between sales of Defence Ministry land and the Mafia, Since the night in 1994 when she was gunned down by two young thugs who have yet to be brought to trial, her murder has given rise to about as many conspiracy theories as has the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

It is a comment on the deservedly low reputation of the political bosses of the Côte d'Azur that her murder has widely been assumed to have been a contract killing involving both the mafia and prominent politicians. Even so, as our Paris correspondent reports on page 16, it is a giant leap from such speculation to the act of all but naming those responsible, as the book does, as François Léotard, former Defence Minister and Mayor of neighbouring Fréjus and leader of the UDF, and Jean-Claude Gaudin, the powerful Mayor of Marseilles. The two men have rightly challenged the authors in court to produce their evidence which, they now claim, is available only from an unnamed "deep throat" in the armed services.

What chiefly excites the politicians, however, is not the conspiracy alleged, but the quite different conspiracy theory that the journalists have been put up to this stunt by 'secret political cells" out to discredit the Centre-Right in forthcoming regional elections in the South of France. That would probably benefit the National Front. This is the anxiety behind M Chirac's outburst. But the best remedy is a determined public assault, starting with reopening the Piat murder inquiry, on the corruption that imparts to this smoke its damaging whiff of fire.

#### **ROMAN AWAY DAY**

In the Colosseum the lions usually came out the winners

Ih, to be in Rome now that Saturday's there! ummer is averaging a temperature 10 egrees higher than in London. And Rome as been the favourite destination for Engsh visitors since a Pope flattered the first evoluntary tourists from England by dearing them to be not Angles but angels.

For medieval pilgrims and young ladies and gentlemen making their Grand Tour, ome was either their spiritual or worldly jummit, and often both. Two centuries ago dward Gibbon found the inspiration for s life's work there, as he sat musing amidst e ruins of the Capitol. Rome has always en second or ideal home for the English imantics: "Everyone soon or late comes

und by Rome." And for those English who are lucky ough to be in Rome today, there is so uch going on. The 55th Italian Governent since the Second World War has llapsed, and intricate negotiations are sing place to cobble together either the th or a general election. There is the onising debate about which works of Eurean painting may have to be lost in order rescue the upper basilica of the Franciscan mplex at Assisi. The draughty new styles Milan Fashion Week have just arrived in

smart shops of the Via Condotti. and today, as you may have noticed ewhere in The Times, there is also a they are not in Rome tonight.

football match in Rome. Statistically, in the unshine is forecast. This late Italian 19 full internationals that England have played against Italy since 1933, each side has won seven times, with five draws. Nostalgically, the last time England won in Italy was in Rome in 1961, the year when the £20 a week wage for professional footballers was abolished and after which Gerry Hitchens and Jimmy Greaves, who scored England's clinching goals, took the golden trail to Italian clubs. Financially, an England win is calculated to earn each player in the squad at least an extra £100,000 in fees and other accessories and perquisites.

Since England's last win in Italy, the game has become a global business and passion. Some of the brightest stars on either side play or have played their football in the opposing country's leagues. Television viewers in England and Italy are familiar with the other country's domestic matches every week. With its improved international image, new football chic has arrived. So the eyes of the world will be on this evening's match between two of the world's most glamorous and expensive teams for a chance to play for the most valuable prize in football. The Roman police will try to make sure that the English football supporters come as close to angels as is humanly possible. And many gentlemen in England, now a-bed, will think themselves accursed

October 9.

Fermer prime ministers and presidents of other countries seem happy to observe the unwritten protocols which their status makes necessary, if only for reasons of common sense. Perhaps Baroness Thatcher ought to begin

MIKE KAINHAM. 22 High Street, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. October 10.

#### ETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

#### Social cohesion in Masterpieces of tranquil Norfolk 'multicultural' UK

From Lord Tebbit, CH

Sir, Canon Smith-Cameron (letter, October 9) seeks to uphold the Christian Church as an example of multiculture.

That is odd. Most Christians would feel that the schism between the Greek and Russian Orthodox, the Holy Catholic Church and the Protestant Churches, most notably the Church of England, has weakened Christianity and led to much quarrelling, even bloodshed, where jurisdictions have clashed or overlapped.

I thought that the ecumenical move ment was about bringing Christians together to share a common doctrine and liturgy in order to preserve the Christian identity distinct from that of

the other great religions.

I am left wondering if the Canon rejoices in the memory of the crusaders holding the borders of Christendom against Islam, or if he is ashamed at the violence and cruelty of the crusades which upheld Christianity.

Yours faithfully, TEBBIT, House of Lords. October 10.

From the Right Reverend Lord Habgood

Sir. "Multicultural" is a weasel word which seems to have at least three meanings.

A multicultural society might be one in which (i) a majority culture tolerates minorities, or (ii) a majority culture welcomes and encourages minorities, or (iii) there is a mixture of cultures existing side by side, with none predominating.

It is doubtful whether a stable society could exist with the third and I cannot think of any country which fits this description. Fear of that can throw a blight on the second, which I suspect is the primary meaning most people have in mind when they welcome multiculturalism. The first looks mean, but may represent a necessary stage through which countries have to pass in coming to terms with actual cultural diversity, as in Northern

Unless these meanings are distinguished from one another, no sensible iscussion of the subject is possible.

Yours faithfully, JOHN HABGOOD, 18 The Mount, Malton, North Yorkshire.

From Mr Philip Skelsev

Sir. Writing about Australia four years ago Ferdinand Mount posed the question: "How much common culture is necessary to maintain social cohesion in a multi-ethnic society?" The Times Literary Supplement, August 20, 1993).

Instead of merely reviling Lord Tebbit, his critics should spell out pre-cisely how they would deal with his concerns, which must be shared by very many people. In the new situation which Labour is creating, what exactly are the components of common culture to be? From which ethnic groups are these to be derived and in what proportions?

Yours faithfully PHILIP SKELSEY. 32/B Abbey Road, NW8. October 8.

From the Executive Officer of the Professional Council for Religious Education

Sir. This week, in the national religious education festival, thousands of schools have celebrated the way they can help young people to feel secure in their own beliefs and values, and explore the beliefs and values held by

I have been unsuccessful in encouraging the press to write about this (not controversial enough, I'm told), but a few words from Lord Tebbit on his hostility to our multicultural society

has yielded acres of coverage.

Perhaps he should go back to school for some up-to-date religious edu-

Sincerely. LAT BLAYLOCK, Executive Officer. Professional Council for Religious Education, Royal Buildings. Victoria Street, Derby

#### BA cover-up

From Mr Mike Rainham

Sir, Watching Baroness Thatcher drape the tall of a British Airways model aeroplane with a handkerchief was, perhaps, the most telling moment at the Conservative Party conference (report and photograph, October 10). If ever a speciacle summed up the task facing William Hague, then it was surely this act of self-regarding

hatel (report, October 6). accepting, as others have been forced to do, that, when the curtain falls, it really is time to leave.

found there.

Feast of St Francis, that you rarely encounter a living soul in these buildings begs an interesting question. In my experience old churches swarm with creatures, many of them protected species, to the despair of the armies

Yours faithfully, ANDREW ANDERSON (architect),

Sir, For Mr Jenkins to say that most

Norwich churches "are now heart-

broken refugees from Norwich's post-

war desectation" seems unfair on two

Norwich set an example to others in

the way it dealt with its unique collec-

tion of ancient churches. The city

council purchased the freeholds of

most and the Norwich Historic Chur-

ches Trust came into being, not to be

confused with the later, admirable

Alternative use has not diminished

the contribution these buildings make

to the city's fabric. As for the so-called

desecration, many think that Norwich

has done rather well, in spite of loss

through wartime bombing, in keep-

ing its medieval street pattern and its

I The Close, Norwich. Norfolk.

From Mr A. P. Anderson

Norfolk Churches Trust.

marked individuality.

A. P. ANDERSON.

Trowse, Norwich, Norfolk.

14 Barn Meadow

October 4.

Yours faithfully.

of cleaners which are the Church of One point in particular he misses is the technical marvel of being able to England's first line of defence. It is these people — the ones who give up their Saturday afternoons to fashion churches at all from such an unlikely and unmanageable material polish woodwork and brass, cut the as flint. The construction of scores of grass in graveyards, sweep floors, architectural masterpieces from these fragments is nothing short of miracu-lous. Church-building using stone is change the flowers and wash cassocks and altar linen - who cry out for

October 4.

relatively easy.

What astonishes me is his description of Norfolk as both gloomy and dull. Gloomy, this dry, sun-drenched county, with its brilliant sharp light? It is telling that the great landscape painters of England came from, and painted, the east. Not for them the obvious appeal of hills and valleys, but a subtler more tranquil beauty of oak tree, cornfield, cottage and un-

From Mr Roger Last

Sir, Simon Jenkins's view of Somerset

versus Norfolk churches (Towers built on wool", October 4) is purely

subjective. His arguments in favour of

Somerset are hardly convincing.

Norfolk spurns the superficial visitor. But to those who choose to take the time and trouble it yields up its subtle and haunting beauty, a richness that endlessly rewards.

Yours faithfully, ROGER LAST, The Mill House. Corpusty, Norwich, Norfolk.

From Mr Andrew Anderson

Sir, There are more than 15,000 parish churches in England and it is invidious to make comparisons. I know an unprepossessing Yorkshire church that has an early 14th-century effigy of a lady which beats anything in Norfolk or Somerset: Suffolk is best for

fire engines and roasting spits.
For Simon Jenkins to say, on the

Playgroup closures From Viscount Falkland

Sir. Can anyone not be deeply concerned about the news that 800 playgroups have closed and that this is ikely to increase to more than 2,000 in the foreseeable future treports, Sep-

About 800,000 children go to play-roups represented by the Pre-School Early Learning Alliance, and a very high proportion — about a third — of these under-fives are growing up in families where poverty, ill-healt poor housing are the norm. These are the children most at risk from severe deprivation in later life, and the playgroups give a lifeline to them and to

our society from these closures is Cannot the political parties find some true consensus to deal urgently

their parents, or parent. The danger to

with the threat to these children? The signs are not good: Labour blames the situation on the Conservatives for introducing the nursery voucher scheme, and the Tories blame Labour for allowing the holding of classes in primary schools as a substitute for nursery provision. They are both right of course; but it does not help solve a problem which we ignore at our peril.

Yours truly, FALKLAND. House of Lords.

No trade

From Mrs Margaret Pelling

Sir. I read with interest (article.

Homes, October 1) of the sixth house

move in 13 years planned by City fund

manager Nicola Horlick and family.

Don't people like this ever find any-

where they can love, want to stay in

and call home, and abandon the re-

By their standards, I suppose my

family and I live in a wreck. We've

been in it since 1979; our son, now 19,

kicked his first football in the back

garden, and our 14-year-old daughter

was conceived here. The kitchen des-

perately needs redecorating, but that

would mean taking down the pictures

and drawings which the kids did

when they were little, and they are so

fragile by now that we'd never get

Our son still kicks a football about

in the garden when he's home from

university - those bits, that is, which our daughter has not yet claimed for

36 Oxford Road, Cumnor, Oxford.

them up again intact.

Yours faithfully.
MARGARET PELLING.

the rabbit run.

lentless business of trading up?

#### Home services

From Dr Serena North

Sir. On the Today programme this morning Harriet Harman agreed with the interviewer that an increasing number of experienced childcare workers would be required in order to encourage single mothers back into

May I point out that a trained workforce is already in place, whose members work a 24-hour shift, do not take sick leave and rarely go on holiday. They are called mothers for fathers) at home. Some are able to job-share (parents), others have to do the job single-

Sadly, they are undervalued and hence largely unrewarded for their service to the nation. This is what this Government needs to rectify if it wishes to improve the emotional as well as the physical and spiritual health of the next generation of voters.

Yours faithfully. SERENA NORTH, Care (Christian Action Research and Education). 53 Romney Street, SWI. October 3.

#### Medical risk-takers

From Dr Gordon Manson-Bahr

Sir. The proposed injection of a weakened but live strain of the HIV virus into a dozen healthy people, including Dr Charles Farthing (report, September 29), has parallels in the history of

My great-grandfather, Sir Patrick Manson, who with Sir Ronald Ross pioneered the discovery of the malaria parasite and the theory of mosquitoborne transmission, did his original work by letting his Chinese gardener. Hinlo, get bitten in his famous mosquito hut in Amoy, China. This imporcant experiment helped to prove the theory of mosquito transmission of

My father continued in this tradition by injecting one of his friends, a parasitologist who had volunteered to be given the serum of an African bush buck, to prove that this animal was the reservoir of African Trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness). Both the volunteers survived.

Dr Charles Farthing is to be applauded, and not regarded as lacking in scientific judgment. My greatgrandfather was regarded as mad until his research was seen to have influenced the course of tropical medicine.

Yours faithfully, GORDON MANSON-BAHR, Boden House, Hall Lane. Tharston, Norwich, Norfolk. October 2.

#### Nuns' retreat

From Mrs John Murray

Sir, It will be dreadfully sad if the delightful San Girolamo hospice --perched just below Fiesole and run by Irish "Blue Nuns" — is forced to close, accused of having become a luxury

When we stayed there many years ago we slept in a simple cell-like room, ate (usually Irish stew) and prayed communally. The guests were writers at work, serious art students, a few clerics and the like, all revelling as they must today in the peace they

Before leaving England we asked the Mother Superior whether we could bring her anything. "Tins of Bird's Custard and bottles of tomato ketchup," she replied. No doubt much has changed since then, but difficult to imagine nine

nuns aged between 65 and 95 success-

fully running a luxury hotel. Yours faithfully. DIANA MURRAY, 38 Elizabeth Court. Milmans Street, SW10.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. c-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

#### Picking the bones of Saxon warhorse

From Colonel A. L. Mallinson

Sir. You write (leading article, "Old warhorse", October 8: report and photograph, same day) that scholars will have to rethink their accepted notion of a Saxon warlord riding into battle on a pony and dismounting to fight, because "the Lakenheath horse

was huge for its period". However, after closer examination of the bones, it now appears more likely that the horse was about 14 hands (and therefore a pony) rather than the 16 hands that the USAF veterinary surgeons, unable to make detailed

measurements, at first estimated. Even if the horse were 15 hands. however, it would be significantly big-ger than the native British breeds of the 6th century. Yet this in itself would say only so much about the equipage

of Saxon mounted warriors. The Saxons (and the Danes) imported stallions from northern Europe specifically to improve native stock. These would undoubtedly have included coldbloods standing 15 hands, and more, descended from the sturdy Diluvial type which the Goths had domesticated. A warlord would have ridden a stallion, and therefore possibly one of these bigger, foreign breeds. The circumference of the Lakenheath horse's cannon bone should eventually give a better idea of

its build and, thereby, its breed. No stirrups were found in the grave, as you point out, though we cannot entirely discount the possibility of non-metal (leather) ones having decomposed. Realistically, however, it would have been another half-century or so before the stirrups with which the Avars and Huns overran Eastern Europe could have reached these shores, probably via the Franks. And without the stirrup it is difficult to imagine the Saxon warlord fighting from the saddle in a mêlée.

Yours faithfully. ALLAN MALLINSON, The Cavalry and Guards Club. 127 Piccadiffy, WI.

From Mrs Elizabeth Dineley

Sir. How short a time do we have to be buried before it is permissible, even acceptable, for grinning archaeologists to dig out our bones, prod about among our teeth, disperse our possessions, take the head off our horse and lay us, not to rest, in boxes in museums?

How immeasurably touching to see the photograph of the Saxon warrior and his horse. What vandalism, in the name of science, to rend them apart.

Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH DINELEY, Woodlands.

Berwick St John, Shaftesbury, Dorset. October 8. From His Honour

Judge Gabriel Hutton Sir, If I intended to be buried with my horse I would be saddened to think that we might both be exhumed, at some time in the future, to make way for a new dormitory for American airmen. When does sanctity, afforded to

GABRIEL HUTTON (Chairman, The Berkeley Hunt). Chestal House, Dursley, Gloucestershire. October 9.

#### Not at home

graves, run out?

From Mr Michael J. Dyer

Sir. My answering machine has also been accused of telephoning people only to announce that I am out (Mr Trevor Davies's letter, October 7).

While not particularly caring for the infernal machine, I do have to defend its behaviour in these instances, as the calls were initiated by my own absentmindedness. When finding a called number to be engaged. I had activated the wondrous BT "Ringback" system. which telephones me when they have put their receiver down.

I then forget all about it and when it rings my dutiful answering machine answers it: this makes the exchange think I have picked up the phone for my automatic connection to the previously engaged party, and the ex-change phones them. They then have the pleasure of hearing an ill-informed machine telling them something they did not wish to know. Bring back the carrier pigeons.

Yours sincerely, MICHAEL J. DYER. I Bradley Gardens, West Ealing, W13. October 7.

Flying tackle

From Mr R. S. Smith

Sir. We all know about road rage, but recently I witnessed what appears to be a new departure.

Driving on the M25, I was passing a van (and yes, it was white) whose driver leant out of his window, gave a onefingered salute and roundly abused the pilot of an airliner which was passing low over us on the approach to Heathrow.

Unfortunately, I was unable to see if

the pilot responded. Yours faithfully.

R. S. SMITH. 21 Winston Close, Frimley Green, Surrey. October 8.



#### **COURT CIRCULAR**

BUCKINGHAM PALACE October 10: The Queen this morn-ing visited Raiwind School, Lahore.

Her Majesty toured the class-rooms and met Voluntary Service Overseas volunteers. The Queen later visited the National College of Arts. Lahore.

Her Majesty viewed some of the galleries and met stall and The Queen afterwards viewed

the "Travellers in Time" exhibition at the British Council before attending a Reception.

Her Majesty this afternoon attended a Luncheon given by the Governor of Punjab (Shahid

Hamid) at the residence in Lahore. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh later flew to Islam-abad, before travelling by road to Murree. His Royal Highness this morning flew to Chitral and visited a British Aid Project at Bilphok.

sequently attended a short presentation of WWF's work in Chitral at the Governor's Residence, and presented certificates to WWF Conservationists from

The Duke of Edinburgh sub-

His Royal Highness this after noon attended a Luncheon given by the Governor of North-West

#### Today's royal Dinners engagements

Elderly, will open a new building at the centre, Windmill Road, Minchinhampton, Stroud. Glouvestershire, at 4.

#### Award for BT

BT has received an award for its Fund in London.

#### Welsh Livery Guild

The following have been installed as officers of the Welsh Livery Guild for the ensuing year:
Master, Dr David TownsleyHughes: Senior Warden, Brigadier Ronald E.L. Jenkins; Junior Warden, Mr Grant Walshe, Deputy Master, Mr Thomas A. Owen

ceeded Lord Kelvedon as Chairman of the British Association for Central and Eastern Europe.

# TODAY: Sir Anthony Beaumont

General Arif Bangash) at the The Duke of Edinburgh afterwards watched a game of Polo, before attending a Reception at the

Deputy Commissioner's House, His Royal Highness afterwards visited Chitral Fort.

BLICKINGHAM PALACE

October 10: The Duke of York, Patron, this evening attended the Annual Dinner of the Royal Blackheath Golf Club at the Royal Artillery Mess, Woolwich, London

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE** October 10: The Princess Royal this morning departed Gatwick Airport, London, for Austria.

Her Royal Hignness, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon visited a primary school Volksschule Goldschlagstrasse, Goldschlagstrasse, Vienna.

The Princess Royal this evening Twenty Fifth Anniversary Gala Performance of the Spanish Riding School in the Winter School of the Imperial Castle, Vienna, followed by Dinner at the Pallavicini Palais. Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam is in attendance.

The Princess Royal, as patron, Minchinhampton Centre for the

support of people with commu-nication difficulties. Lord Ashley of Stoke, CH, President of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, presented the award at a ceremony yesterday at the Kings

Appointment

Mr Giles Radice, MP. has suc-

Royal Blackheath Golf Club The Duke of York, Patron of the Royal Blackheath Golf Club, was a speaker at the annual dinner held last night at the Royal Artillery Mess, Woolwich Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Pearson, out-going captain, Mr Frank Headicar, in coming captain, Mr Michael Coyle and Mr John Armitage, Captain of Littlestone Golf Club, also spoke. Incorporation of Weavers.

Fellers and Shearness The Mayor of Exeter and the Prime Warden of the Blacksmiths' Company were the guests of hon-our at a dinner of the Incorporation of Weavers. Fullers and She men of Exeter at Tuckers' Hall, Exeter, last night. Mr John Parkin, Master, assisted by the Wardens and Court of Assistants, presided. Liverpool Consular Corps
The Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside and the Lord Mayor Liverpool attended the annual

dinner of the Liverpool Consular Corps at Liverpool Town Hali last night, marking the 25th assembly of the Association of Norwegian Consuls in the United Kingdom and ireland. Consul D. Beazley, president of the corps, welcomed the guests, who included the Ambassadors of Norway, Iceland and Sweden. The Norwegian Ambassador was the host at a reception held earlier.

#### Weekend birthdays

Dark. former MP, 65; Miss Maria Bueno, tennis player, 58; the Hon Sir Adam Butler, former MP, 66; Sir Bobby Charlton, footballer, 60: Vice-Admiral Sir John Coward, 60: Miss Valerie Cumming, former deputy director. Museum of London, 51: Sir Timothy Daunt, diplomat, 62; Sir Michael wardes, former chairman, British Leyland, 67: Mr Tony Evans. Head Master, King's College School, Wimbledon, 52; Miss Dawn French, actress and com-edian, 40; Mr Geoffrey Haslam, former chairman, Prudential Corporation, 83; Sir Denys Henderson, former chairman, ICI, 65; Mr Henry King, non-executive chairman, Rentokil Group, 61; Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McIntosh, 78: Mr Alan Pascoe, athlete, 50; Lord Prior, 70; Mr David Rendall, tenor, 49; Dame Paddy Ridsdale, 76: Air Chief Marshul Sir Michael Stear, 59; Lord Tordoff, 69; Mr Bryanston School, 53; Sir Richard Wilson, civil servant, 55; Mr Tony Worthington, MP. 56. TOMORROW: Professor Juliet

Cheetham, sociologist, 58; Dame Elizabeth Chesterton, architect and town planner. \$2; Mr Jaroslav Drobny, tennis player, 76; Mr Kenneth Griffith, actor, writer and documentary film-maker, 76; Mr Robert Heron, former director, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, 70: Mr Jonathan Holborow, Editor, The Mail on Sunday, 54; Mr Magnus Magnusson, broadcaster, 68; Dr Magnusson, proacaster, os: Dr John Moffatt, former Provost, The Queen's College, Oxford, 75: Mr Rick Parfitt, rock singer and guitarist, 49; Vice-Admiral Sir John Parker, 82; Mr Luciano Pavarotti, tenor. 62: Miss Angela Rippon, broadcaster, 53: Mr David Threlfall, actor, 44; Mr Michael Verey, merchant banker, 85; Sir David Whire, chairman, Notting-ham Health Authority, 68.

#### The Royal Free Hospital

The 15th triennial dinner of the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine and Old Students' Association will take place on Wednesday, November 19. The annual clinical meeting will take place on Thursday, November 20. For further details and application graduate Administrator, tel: 0171 794 0500 ext 4261. fax: 0171 830 2167. PGEA approved.

#### **Old Millhillians**

The Old Millhillians North West Area Dinner will be held at St James's Club. St James's House. Charlotte Street, Manchester, on Friday, November 7, 1997. The principal speaker will be Bill Skinner, our new President. Old Millhillians wishing to attend should contact: Peter Huston, tel: 0161 941 1318 (H) or 0161 872 3889 (B) for more information.



Archie Holmes, of Benenden, Kent, and Rachel Coles, of Hambrook, Bristol, who have recently announced their engagement

#### Memorial services

Sir John Wraight The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Sir John Birch and the Permanent Under-Secretary of State and Head of the Diplomatic Service by Mr John de Fonblanque at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir John Wraight. former diplomat, held yesterday in the Chapel of St Michael and St George, St Paul's Cathedral.

The Archdeacon of London, canon in residence, officiated, as-sisted by the Rev John Paul, sacrist. Sir Curtis Keeble read the lesson and Mr Roger Pincham read from the St George's Day Address by Mr Enoch Pow The Right Rev John

Satterthwaite gave an address and Captain Bill Palmer and Mr James Reeve paid tribute. The Ambassador of Switzerland. accompanied by Herr Robert Reich, attended. Among others rinesent were Lady Wraight (widow); Sir Ronald and Lady Arculus, Dame Gillian

(Royal Institute of International

Sir Tlmothy Garden

Affairs), Sir Reginald Hilbbert, Lady Keeble.

Mrs Rose Damiral-White (representing the Chief Scout) with Mr Bill Cockcroft (Chief Commis-sioner for England, Scout Associ-, Mr John Berrisford (World Scout Committee Honours and Awards Board), Mr Roger Hurrion (County Commissioner) and other representatives of the Scout Association, Greater London and the South West).

Mr David Beattle, Mr and Mrs Bryce Cottrell, Mr Andrew Palmer, Mr D S Paravicini (Anglo-Swiss Society). Mr Peter Parker and many other friends and for-mer colleagues.

#### R.B. Baskford

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lieutenant-Colonel R.B. Bashford, former Director of Music, Grenadier Guards, was held yesterday at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks. Chapel, Wellington Barracks. The Rev Leslie Bryan, Chaplain to the Household Division, officiated. Lieutenant-Colonel Conway

Seymour read the lesson and Major-General Evelyn Webb-Carter read from the works of John Donne, Major Peter Lewis gave an

During the service the music of Colonel Bashford, Vaughan Williams. Bach. Purcell, Elgar, Grainger, Stanford, and Greig and Faure arranged by Colonel Bashford was played by the band of the Grenadler Guards and Faure Person of the Breath and the Trumpeters of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller

#### Dr David Grant

A memorial service for Dr David Grant, consultant paediatric endo crinologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, will be held in the Kennedy Lecture Theatre, Wellcome Trust Building, Institut of Child Health, Guilford Street, London, WCI, at 4.00pm on Tuesday, November 25, 1997. All are

October 11, 1972

**经国际政治** 

champion, 1971-76, lacked the aggression of a really great champion. But he was a popular figure, fighting bravely against Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

referee correctly ruled a knockout.

Now the crowd which has so often to lift his arms proudly in response.

Bugner had come excitingly close to a first-round victory. After the two men had come out of a flurry at close quarters, Bugner had jumped forward with uncharacteristic decision and lashed out a right and left which sent Blin thumping down on his back. The German had risen at the count of two but still had to take a compulsory count of eight as the

For the next four rounds Bugner dominated the contest, though there were moments when he forsook his trusty left jab and started to flap away with badly timed attacks to the head. Bugner raised the pace in the sixth by shortening the left jab so that, instead of whistling over Blin's shoulder, it began to smack

The seventh was slower and Bugner seemed to lack leverage in his counters as Blin tried more cavalry charges. But though I did hear one or two murmurs of the old sourness from the crowd at that stage, all was forgiven in the next round when Bugner shocked and delighted them with his knockout success.

### **Forthcoming** marriages

The engagement is announced

between Mark, only son of Mrs

Teresa Lindsay-Smith, of North

Hykeham, Lincoln, and Suzanne,

daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Hackney, of North Hykeham,

The engagement is announced

between James, son of Dr and Mrs James McVicker, of Ballymoney.

Northern freland, and Valerie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Manuel

The engagement is announced

between Jonathan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Scott, of

Oxshott, Surrey, and Jill, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Bruce Rufner, of New Jersey, USA.

The engagement is announced between Duncan Charles, son of

the Rev and Mrs Anthony Smith.

of Northfleet Kent, formerly of Matfield, Kent, and Christine Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs

John Firancon Davies, of Ascot,

The engagement is announced between Stephen, elder son of Mr

and Mrs Ron White, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and

Hilary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Willard, of Wor-

The marriage took place on Friday, October 3, in Guildford Cathedral, between Mr Alastair

Black and Mrs Susan Mary Miller. The Dean, the Very Rev

Mr J.W. McVicker

and Miss V.L. Bignolas-

Bignolas, of Paris, France.

and Miss J.C. Rofies

Mr J.K. Scott

Mr D.C. Smith

Berkshire.

Mr S.R. White

Marriage

Mr A.K.L. Black

and Mrs S.M. Miller

and Dr H.L. Willand

and Miss C.J. Davies

Mr J.A.D. Bates and Miss F.M. MacDermott The engagement is announced between Adam, only son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Bates, of Clifton Hampden, Oxford, and Fabia, younger daughter of Mr Alasdair MacDermott, of the British En-

bassy, Ankara, and Mrs Roger Flint, of Powerstock, Dorset.

Mr P.G.D. Bingham and Miss R.E. Claridge The engagement is announced between Patrick, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Bingham, of Stamford, Lincolnshire, and Ruth. youngest daughter of Mr Richard Claridge, of Bedford, and Mrs Preda Duniop, of Bedford.

and Miss C. Brown The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Simon Elvin, of Cookham Dean, Berkshire, and Christy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Brown, of Langtoft, Peterborough.

Mr K.A. Froggatt and Miss A.F. Packer

The engagement is announced between Keith, youngest son of Sir Peter and Lady Froggatt, of Bel-fast, Northern Ireland, and Alison Frances, daughter of Professor and Mrs Ken Packer, of Bunny.

Mr D.T.G. Jones and Miss A.C.D. Campbell The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr

and Mrs Ronald Jones, of Rock, Cornwall, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stuart Campbell, of Cookham, Berkshire.

Mr J.M. King and Miss S. Cobbold

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Michael King, of Perth, Australia, and Susannah, daughter of Mr Nicholas Cobbold, of Calne, Wiltshire, and of Lady Brooks, of London SW3.

BIRTHS: John Thadeus Delane,

Editor of The Times 1841-77, London, 1817: Sir George Williams,

DEATHS: James Joule, physicist,

Sale, Cheshirs, 1899; Anton Bruck-

ner, composer. Vienna. 1896; Henry Broadhurst, trade unionist,

Cromer, 1911; Jean Fabre, entomologist, Serignan-du-Comtat, 1915; Maurice Vlaminck, painter, Rueil-la-Gadelière, 1958;

Chico Marx, actor, Hollywood,

1961: Jean Cocteau, poet, painter, actor and film director, Milly-la-

Föret, 1963; Edith Piaf, singer, Paris, 1963; Stanley Morison,

typographer and historian of The Times, London, 1967.

The Great Fire of Chicago was

The first in-flight meals were

served on a Handley-Page flight from London to Paris at a cost of 3

BIRTHS: Ralph Vaughan Wil-

liams, composer, Ampney

Gloucestershire, 1872; Christopher

Dawson, historian, Hay-on-Wye, 1889: James McAuley, poet, Lakemba, New South Wales, 1917.

DEATHS: Elizabeth Fry, Quaker,

prison reformer, Ramsgate, 1845; Robert Stephenson, civil engineer,

London, 1869: Tom Mix, film actor

1940: Sir Ian Hamilton, general,

London, 1947; Sonja Henie, world

skating champion and film ac-tress, died in an air crash en route

to Oslo from Paris, 1969; Gene Vincent, singer; 1971.

Christopher Columbus landed on

Edith Cavell, nurse, was execute

FOR SALE

The Boer War began, 1899.

shillings (15 pence), 1919.

**Anniversaries** 

#### Service dinners

The Green Howards Brigadier Richard Dannatt presided at the annual officers' dinner of The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) held last night at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick.

Major-General Robin Grist, Colo-nel of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment presided at the amuel re-Logistic Corps, Deepcut. Ordnance Board

honour at the annual dinner of the held last night in Bristol. Air Vice-Marshal P.J. O'Rellly, President of

and Mrs R.M. Yolland among those present.

Details of tomorrow's church services are on page 16 of the Weekend section.



#### Bugner regains title with eighth-round knockout By Neil Allen

**Boxing Correspondent** 

The welcome sound of cheers, rather than boos, at last greeted Joe Bugner when he regained the European heavyweight title by knocking out Jurgen Blin, of West Germany, in the eighth round at the Albert Hall, London, last night.

It was only the third clean knockout gained by Bugner in 45 professional contests and just the second time that Blin has been knocked out in his eight years' career. The other man to cause the full count to be tolled over Blin was

Muhammad Ali who took seven rounds. It was a left and right to the head that sent Blin crashing down early in the eighth round. The German squatted near his own corner with eyes blurred and filled with pain as his seconds shouted desperately at him. Somehow he staggered up to a half-standing position as the Italian referee reached "nine". But then Blin went jolting back on his heels.

#### ON THIS DAY

Joe Bugner, British heavyweight boxing

quite unable to defend himself, and the

booed Bugner in and out of the Albert Hall ring changed their tune completely. "Bugner, Bugner", they chanted delightedly and the 22-year-old, who has often laboured so disappointingly under the label of "the golden boy", was able at last Bugner, considering the sporting way he has taken so much criticism, thoroughly deserved his moment of triumph.

PERSONAL COLUMN

crowd roared their delight.

soundly into the German's face.

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against the community and so incur a public disgrace. Do not pile up sin on sin, for just one is enough to make you guilty. Ecclesiasticus 7:

On - On Genouse 3rd at Fractional Hospital, to be and Kerth, a daughter, on Lillian, a sister for ELLIS - On October 3rd, to Disciplite (min Line Fox) And

BIRTHS

are proud to announce the arrival of George Henry, a brother for William, born on lat October at Farmborough Hospital.

in Tábor, to Sabina (née Mages) and Ranjan, a son, Joshua Michael, a brother 1997, to Lain (nie Stackley) and Andrew, another bestied another askells feliates (Lin., state for Rosie and Camilla - Deo Graties

JOHNSEN - On September 28th at The Portland Hospital, to Ina-jamine and Lars, a daughter, Ella Portland

LUCILLEBUTH - See Port. MACCARA - Alloos and Paul thank God for the safe arrival of Sophie Clairs on Wednesday 8th October, a river for locambine MILES - On October Sth at The Fortland Hospital, to Geraldine and John, a daughter, Rebecca Olivia, a sister for Connor.

PORT - On 10th October 1997, to Sue (mée Lucie-Smith) and Andrew, a son, James. POST - On October 7th at The Fortland Hospital Anne Claire is geboren! dockter van jan-Event en Rienke Post

BIRTHS to Aistrander and Earsm (note Halls), a beauthy desprease finity Charlotte Gomme, a sister for Arthur and companyable of Michael Companya

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

COTTON:COMBORS - Ca October 12th 1937, at St Peter's, Campbellper, Penjab by Father Airred Ball, John to Mary. Now at Lansing House, Hartley Wintney, Hassa With love, administra-and particular for being said wonderful purents, grand and great-grandparents.

DEATHS

May (formerly Rabagliati, non Bourgain). Peacefully on 6th October at The Quinta Nursing Home, Beatley. Enloyed mother of Paul and stepmether of John and Tim. Much loved by her grandchildren and her sister Mary and a good friend to many in Guildford and Farnham. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium Thursday 16th October 11.30 am. Family flowers only, donations to ATD Fourth World of St.C. Farnick & Co. 01252-714384.

DEATHS

Levi Canon Gordon, aged 84, Upton Scudamore,

Mared Canoni Gordon, 3968 84, Upton Scudemore, Warmington, sometime Victor of St James, Gerrards Cross. Devoted secunit of Chest, greatly beloved Bushand and providers of the late. partner of the late Joan, and Jane, much loved father-in-law of Francis and Tony. dear grandfather of Andre Stephen Gavin, Steams and Joanna, fond great-Joanna, fond great-grandfather of Thomas, Harry and Francisca Pumeral Service Thesday 14th October 2 pm, Sr Marys, Upton Scudename Service of Thanksgiving, Seturday 15th November 2 pm, St James, Gerrards Cross. Family Howers only, donations, if desired, CMS Sudan, c/o W. Adiam & Son, 68/70 Locks Hill, Frome, Somerset Ball 1

Disable Product Lett CVO.

O.R.E., husband of the late
limbert, father of David,
Robert and Jean, grandfather
of Julie, Deborah, James,
Esther, Elizabeth, Samuel
and Mary, Great-grandfather Esther, Elizabeth, Samuel and Mary, Great-grandfather of abacta, Farther of Sylvia. Eingston Crematorium, Tuesday 14th October at 12.20 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Royal National Institute for the

MHLES - Christine (née English) pencepuls at home and October. Penseral beld quierty at St Mary's, West Kington 9th October. Donations for Cavalier King Charles Rescus, Totas, Mrs Barking, 74 Friern Gardens, Wickford, 2312 UBA.

SHAND - Eileen Nancy, peacafully on October 9th, at home, aged 90. Beloved wife of the late Dr. Bill Shand. Much loved mother, Shand. Much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Markeston Cromatorium, Derby, on Friday 17th October at 215pm, Funding Howers only please. Donations, if desired, to the Sue Eyder Palliative Care Home, Stanton Handi, Addry de in Arech, Leica. Lies Int.

OCHETY - Esteet of Man SOCIATY - Emect of Miners by Sea and formerly of Newcastle. Teacher and historian. Peacefully after a base illness on 4th October. Beloves hushami and Criber. Funeral took place on 9th October. Donations if idealed in IAF Emerchical Fund ILP.

SOUTHCOTT - Wilfred John (Bill) on October Sth. peacefully in hospital aged 76. Deeply missed by his wife Amanda and sons Caulstopher, Earry, Asthery and their Instiller. Present at Morthale Cremsterium on Erida. October 174h. Mortble Cremsterium on Friday October 17th at 230pm. Flowers to Feneral Disease T.H. Candes and Sons, 28-30 Kew Road, Richmond, Survey. Donations, if desired, to Kingwood Unit, Queen Mary's University Hospital, Rockmapture Lines, London SW15 SPA.

Heaton Stanning, D.S.O., Boyal Ravy, died peacefully in hospital on 9th October, beloved husband of Many, hother of Joan, father of Elizabeth, Eosemary and John, Funezal at St. John the Baptist Chunch, Mildenhall, near Mariborough, at 11 am on Thursday 16th October. Family flowers; donations if deathed to League of Friends of Savarnale Hospital, clo Bartleys Bank, Mariborough Memorial service lane.

1846H - Phil on October 2th 1997 peacefully at Bornham Lodge Kunsing Home, Bucks, aged 90 years. Wife of the late Ear Walles, deathy loved mother of Uryula and Anthea, grandworther of Andrew, Christian, James, Jeanna and Amonth and suns of Jeanifer and Kerrin. Femeral Service Holy Trinky Caurch, Pann, Backs, at 3 pm followed by committal at Chilterns Crematorium, Amerikan, Friday 24th October, Donations if desired to The Muchalins in Senevolent Fond. All enquiries to G. Smith Funezal Directors, tel: (01628) 523566.

AME - Litho wife of the in William, passed away October 8th 1997 at home. Fuzetal Service at Croydon Unitarian Church, Thursday

WARD - Lt. Col. David Charles Robert Ward K.O.S.B., died widdenly but peacefully on October Sth. Husband of Mary, father of Caroline, Abjus, Amelia and Georgia, Grandfather of Charlie, Hamish, Archie, Remash and Evangeline. Much lowed and greatly missed He asked for a private cremation with no Howers or letters of sympathy to the family. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday October 17th at 2 pm at Berwick-upon-Tweed Parish Church. Everyme is most welcome. No flowers. Donations will be taken at the service and given to SSAFA Forces Help and Berwick Parish Church. ARD - Lt. Col. David Charle

THANKSGIVING SERVICES IN MEMORIAM —

PRIVATE Trestured semectics of a loved and loving wife, despiter and living, who died 11th October 1993, aged 38. EFF. From her

TATNALL - Sidney George Communy, Still personbers and much level. SERVICES

Morthgate, 1BAT6. Rows DENEY Pay Britishly Hodge flig 01202 697389.

TICKETS FOR SALE FOR SALE

(16233). 2 years old, Champagne face with merals, with <del>श</del>ी £2.500.

> GUNS FOR SALE BY AUCTION

Auctioneers of Modern & Antique Gune The sale to on view at the Duke of Yorks Headquarters, Kinge Rd, London on 22nd October, 12 noon to 8 pm 0171 385 9558

The Old School, The Squ Lymington, Hempshire, SO41 8GN Fax: 01590 676167 300 lots, from £10 up to £20,000 (for pairs of Purdeys)

#### founder of the YMCA, Dulverton, Somerset, 1821; Henry John Heinz, food manufacturer, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1844; Sir Bernard Partridge, artist and cartoonist, London, i861; François Mauriac, novelist, Nobel isureate 1952, Bor-

The Royal Gioucesterabire, Berkshire and Wiltshire

finner held last night at the Royal Lieutenant-General E.F.G. Bur-ton, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Systems) was the guest of Ordnance Board Officers' Mess

the Ordnace Board, presided. 71st Yeomanny Signal Regiment The Earl and Countess of Limerick received the guests at the annual ladies dinner of the 71st Yeomany Signal Regiment Officers' Dining Club held last night at the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, on the return of the regiment from annual camp in Belgium. Lieutenant-Colonel R.K. Wilkinson, his officers and their ladies, Contessa Gabriella Penturo and Colonel

Middlesex Yeomany Association Major-General D.R. Horsfield was the guest of honour at the an-nual dinner of the Middlesex Yeomanry Association held last night at the Duke of York's Headat the Duke of York's Head-quarters, marking the bicenterary of the raising of the Uxbridge Yeomanry Cavairy. Mr G.L. Key presided. Lieutenant-Colonel S.R. Beazley and Major P.N. Willmott, Royal Signals, also spoke.

Guanahani (San Salvador), 1492. by the Germans for helping Allied prisoners to escape, Brussels. 1915.

### CHRISTMAS **GIFT GUIDE**

TIMES NEWSPAPERS WILL ONGE AGAIN BE PUBLISHING ITS SUCCESSFUL GUIDE TO ALL THINGS CHRISTMAS APPEARING IN THE WEEKEND SECTION' OF THE TIMES AND IN THE 'STYLE SECTION' OF THE SUNDAY TIMES

SATURDAY 25th AND SUNDAY 26th OCTOBER · SATURDAY Ist AND SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER SATURDAY 5th AND SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER SATURDAY ISH AND SUNDAY IGH NOVEMBER SATURDAY 22nd AND SUNDAY 23nd NOVEMBER SATURDAY 29th AND SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER

• SATURDAY 15th AND SUNDAY 16th DECEMBER "BUY 3 WEEKEND

\* SATURDAY 6th AND SUNDAY 7th DECRMBER

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erit in plant to a single The total graph Street Section

1.000 学生安徽 mandages and the state of the said

Marie Marie

FOLKES - Ann Margaret suddenly in October 9th in hospital Devoted wife of the late Full Folkes, beloved marker of Simon, Richard puper 1947 ation folds 1997 in presentation folds #1900 too pan Reserved year misse area. Tel/Tex 01934 412844 Spm 7 days. (50 years) Tel 01446 730730 Fex 01446 700852. Annual Thankspiring for the line of Michael Setry Desput will be held at R. John's Chuzch High Load, Sackbarge Hill at 1.30 pm on Thursday 6t November 1997. 12. Ournations 210,00, 18 612:00, 12 Carmations 210,00, 18 612:00, 12 Carmations 2 25 Pression CLASO, 25 Pression CLASO, 26 Carmations 2 25 Pression CLASO, 27 Carmation Classes, C. Tel 01/481 63062, UNA Page 07481 64013 Sarah and Patrick and Sarah and Patrick and adored grandmother of Katle, Isobel, Edward, Jenima, Zof, Robert and Joshua. She will be gosziy miseed by her heally and Iriends. Private cremation. Service of Thunksgiving to be held at a later date. Donations if desired to Christian Md. Lower Marsh Street, London SEI.

> Rolex Oyster DATE JUST, BI-Mont

Scarpell - Ian Patrick died 12th October 1992 aged 29. Deeply loved son. Sadly missed by forever with the lines, Dec. Levin, family and friends.

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### J. G. LINKS

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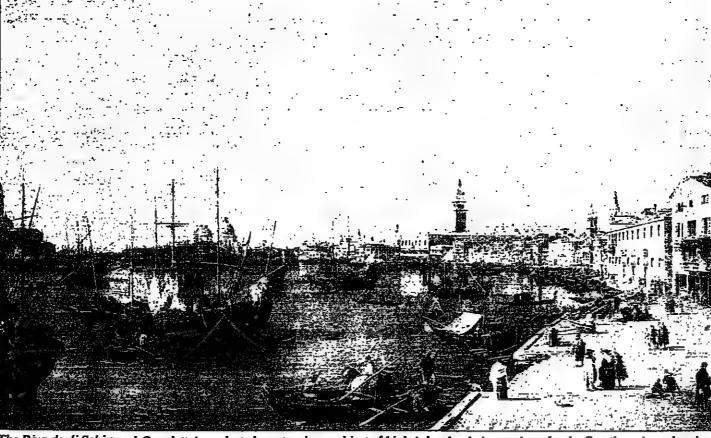
J. G. Links, furrier and expert on Venice and Canaletto, died on October 1 aged 92. He was born on December 13, 1904.

re-eminence in utterly disparate fields was masked in J. G. Links by a never-failing modesty and geniality. His first career, forced on him by circumstance, was as a furrier; he retired from fur to become, by accident, one of the world's most respected art historians; and he wrote what has often been described, by Bernard Levin among many others, as the greatest guidebook to any city ever written, Venice for Pleasure. In between he was a regular on the Cresta Run, and with Dennis Wheatley he. produced detective novels that thrust Wheatley to the forefront of nopular writing. Joseph Gluckstein Links, known

as Joe. was born in North London, the son of a Jewish refugee from Hungary who had a fairly prosperous fur business specialising in skunk skins - the lower end of the market. His mother died in childbirth when Joe was 12, and two years later his father had leukaemia diagnosed. As a result, he was removed from Mill Hill School to study the trade. "I was an unwilling and sullen pupil," he wrote, but after his father's death five years later he was obliged to take the business seriously, in order to support himself and his two sisters.

There were compensations, however: unlike his contemporaries who had to marry, often unhappily, to escape the pressures of the Jewish home, Links found himself leading a very agreeable life, with his own business, a handsome house in Hampstead and two sisters looking after him.

He learnt to love fast cars and boats, and holidayed frequently in the South of France, the Alps and New York, always travelling in style at the insistence, so he said, of the firm. For by now he had made himself one of the leading furriers in Britain, and this career was eventually crowned by the Royal Warrant and the medieval post of Furrier to the Queen. His first book was The Book of Fur, full of wit and nis unfailing sense of enjoyment. is a furrier that Links achieved the are distinction - and here his



The Riva degli Schiavoni. Canaletto's neglected masterpiece, subject of Links's last book, is seen here for the first time since cleaning

modesty sometimes failed him - of being interviewed on television

before the war. To this day many furriers remember Joe Links of Calman Links, but are unaware of his other careers. A taste for fine German wine led him in the Thirties to Dennis Wheatley, then an unsuc-cessful wine dealer. The friendship was sealed one evening when Links, no doubt under the influence of Wheatley's stock, argued that detective novels, though superior to adventure novels, at which Wheatley was beginning to make a modest name, suffered from an excess of "stuffing". "Why can't we just have the facts and the clues?" he demanded. "Not description of the clues but the real thing bloodstained matches, bits of hair, real fingerprints all leading the reader to the solution. A dossier rather than a book, with reports, newspaper cuttings, photographs

The result, after a sceptical publisher had been pummelled into acquiescence by Wheatley, was Murder off Miami and wild success. At one stage Hutchinson had 40 girls in Watford dipping matches into red ink and struggling with Cellophane envelopes. (For those who remained baffled, there was a sealed solution at the back.) A quarter of a million copies were sold, three more titles were issued, with translations in eight languages. It did not appear in Germany, however, because a tornup photograph of a nude lady invoked the wrath of Hitler's censors. "The morals of the book", they reported, "must be designated more than inferior, created for

man ones." In 1945 Links, who had served in the RAF during the war, married Mary Lutyens, daughter of the architect, and a novelist, historian and biographer of Krishnamurti. It

English living conditions, not Ger-

was a strikingly happy marriage. Their first honeymoon was on a troopship, and by way of compensation Links took Mary to Venice the following year. It was a revelation, and Venice became the lodestar of the second half of his life.

Curiously for a couple on their honeymoon, they chose to follow in the footsteps of John Ruskin and Effie on their own honeymoon some 100 years earlier. Out of this grew an astonishing intimacy with the Ruskins that resulted in four books still recognised as authoritative pictures of the world of Victorian high art: Mary's Effie in Venice, Millais and the Ruskins, The Ruskins and the Grays, and Joe's The Ruskins in Normandy, as well as his superb abridgement of The Stones of Venice. Links had discovered Effic's letters home, anguished and crossed and doublecrossed, and had given them to the archivist at the Hudson's Bay Company, of which he was by then a director, who deciphered and sent them back to him at the rate of one a week. "It was like having a daughter living in Venice at the time."

By this stage the Linkses were going two or three times a year to Venice, always staying at the Danieli. "Why buy a house, when you can have 120 servants?" he asked. Research into Ruskin took up Mary's time, and Joe amused himself by writing Venice for Pleasure — a guide to the pleasures of Venice without its pains". Few books of any genre have such charm, grace, wit, companionability - a true case of the style showing the man - and fewer guidebooks have ever been written with such mastery of their subject or understanding of how history creates the sense of place. Instantly acclaimed, it has never been out of print, and Links spent much of his last months preparing a sixth edition. In 1994 it was the



BBC Radio 4. with John Wells capturing all the debonair joy of the original.

Venice was also the locus of Links's most substantial work, the cataloguing of the works of Canaletto. This occupied the last 25 years of his life. Mary had given him a copy of W. G. Constable's great catalogue raisonné, in which was a photograph of a painting described as lost but which Links recognised as one hanging over his sister-inlaw's fireplace. A correspondence with Constable ensued, during which Constable asked Links if he would take over the final preparation of a second edition of the catalogue, which he estimated would take six weeks.

It took six years, at the end of which Links was the acknowledged world authority on Canaletto. He was always too modest to accept the description, but his rigorously scholarly, sceptical work, his meticulousness in a notoriously confusing field, and a growing passion for the subject made an outstanding contribution not only to Canaletto studies but to the story of view painting (about which he wrote a

pioneering book).

He also brought the true great-

ciation of a wider public. Links was the moving spirit behind the great exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, for which he obtained scores of paintings never before seen in public, and he was closely involved with the exhibitions at the Queen's Gallery in 1981 and the Royal Academy in 1995. He produced an exemplary popular introduction to the painter for Phaidon, as well as an innovative study of Canaletto's commercial life, Canaletto and his Patrons (1977).

Work on Canaletto continued unabated right up to his death. with the final preparation of a supplement to the catalogue, and a book for the Soane Museum on its recently cleaned masterpiece (seen here). Meanwhile, the predicament of the real Venice was never far from his thoughts, and one of his most lasting contributions will be the many successful restorations undertaken by the Venice in Peril Fund with money he was instrumental in raising.

He is survived by Mary Links and her daughter. Of his two godsons, Sir Tim Sainsbury survives him but Jeffrey Bernard predeceased him last month.

#### DEIRDRE REDGRAVE

Deirdre Redgrave, author and agitator, died. September 29 aged 58. She was born on January 6, 1939.

DEIRDRE REDGRAVE was ne of life's great characters. A triking beauty with luxuriant ed hair, whose looks faded as fe gradually became more ifficult, she was born into an ristocratic Anglo-Irish famy, the Hansilton-Hills. At the nd of the 1950s she was one of ne most sought-after debuintes of her time. In 1963 she narried Corin Redgrave, son f the actor Michael Redgrave. Juring their 13-year marriage beirdre was the toast of ohemian swinging London. Later, as things got tougher, ne never lost the ability to rugh at herself, raucously oing so as she chain-smoked nd consumed cupious quantias of red wine. She took on

any jobs to make ends meet.

from film and stage designer. to journalist, and from costurne designer to author Nothing subsequently em-

and so on.

barrassed her more than her supposedly tell-all biography To Be a Redgrave (1982). which she co-wrote in the aftermath of the break-up of her marriage - partly in revenge but mostly as a way of producing much-needed cash. Long after all such bitterness departed, one friend delighted in playfully tormenting her by reading aloud to her the more fruity passages - and her toes would curl with mortification. But she would always manage to laugh and never lost her sense of the ironies of her life.

In her marriage she went along with the eccentric, extremist political views of her husband and of his sister. Vanessa - later looking back on such "demo" days as a mixture of fun and lunacy. She always insisted that the satiri-



cal character of Deirdre Spart - the partner of the student agitator Dave Spart - was based on her.

Five years ago breast cancer was diagnosed. In 1995 she published a moving book about her experience of cancer treatment entitled Me and My. Shadow. She campaigned to keep the Royal Marsden Hospital open and even addressed a rally in Trafalgar Square. When the cancer returned in

LEGAL NOTICES

1996, she did not give up despite the prognosis. She was determined to fight on, not only for the sake of her family but also as an example to the many cancer patients she had befriended. Deirdre Redgrave touched

many lives and was never short of admirers, one being Jeffrey Bernard, who before his death last month would regularly refer to her in his column in The Spectator as "she who would drown in my eves" - a reference to a phrase she had once used when they were having dinner together in Soho.

The support she received during her illness from both her ex-husband Corin and his family meant much to her and she would often recall her lunches with her former mother-in-law. Rachel Kempson, and the laughs that they had shared.

She is survived by her daughter and her son.

#### MICHAEL CUMMINGS

Michael Cummings OBE, cartoonist. died on October 9 aged 78. He was born on June I, 1919.

THE longest-serving contemporary cartoonist, Cummings drew for more than 40 years for the Daily Express and for 32 years for the Sunday Express - with his work latterly appearing in both The Times Magazine and the Daily Mail. Although never quite the equal of Vicky or David Low, he was a formidable draughtsman with a particular strength in likenesses.

Arthur Stuart Michael Cummings — always called Michael by his family and friends - was born in Leeds. the son of a journalist who went on to become the noted Liberal columnist on the News Chronicle, A. J. Cummings.

After going to The Hall preparatory school in Hampstead and then to Gresham's School, Holt, Cummings became a student at the Chelsea. School of Art. While there, he contributed his first cartoon an attack on Neville Chamberlain - to Tribune, a surprisingly left-wing publication for an artist whose work was later thought to be violently right-wing. But the explanation probably was that Chamberlain had always been one of his father's particular betes noires — and there were not very many anti-appeasement papers to choose from.

His art studies were inter- his drawings were the explan- ing even into the 1980s when rupted by the outbreak of the atory labels which he attached he was thinly disguised as Second World War, for the duration of which he served as an RAF draughtsman with the Air Ministry.
At the end of the war,

Cummings returned to art school and became a regular contributor to Tribune. At the same time he took a teaching course at the Institute of Education, London University, so as to have an alternative fallback career to his chosen vocation as an artist.

He had just secured a teaching post at St Albans Grammar School for Girls when, through an introduction from his father, he was given an interview with Lord Beaverbrook. Another meeting followed, with the Editor of the Daily Express. Arthur Christiansen, who offered Cummings a trial engagement as a cartoonist.

He joined the Daily Express in 1949, his cartoons intended to fill the gap left by the retirement of Strube and to provide a contrast to the more domestic ones of the paper's other regular artist, Giles.

Initially. Cummings had some difficulty in finding sufficiently good ideas to satisfy Christiansen - at one stage being saved from the sack by Lord Beaverbrook. But from the beginning his cartoons had a boldness of line and made dramatic use of black and white. The other characteristic features and marks of

to everyone and everything together with the use of handwritten speech and thoughtbubbles in the style of Gillray. Rowlandson and other 18thcentury caricaturists (and later of Private Eye).

Until 1990 Cummings contributed cartoons to the Daily Express three days a week, and



from 1958 he also drew for the Sunday Express. During Malcolm Muggeridge's editorship of Punch in the mid-1950s, his cartoons were a regular feature of that magazine: and he became a frequent contributor to various French publications including L'Aurore, Paris Match and Candide.

A fundness for the character of General de Gaulle made him one of his most frequently caricatured leaders, appear-

Margaret Thatcher. It was in France, during 1953, that Cummings met his future wife. Anne-Marie. They were married three years later. A controversial cartoonist.

Cummings was often criticised for his attitude towards immigration. A particularly incendiary drawing was one in 1968 which showed Enoch Powell in the dock and Jeremy Thorne, then the Liberal lead er, pointing an accusing figure at him and saving: "Prisoner Powell. You stand convicted of the infamous crime of telling the truth!"

Cummings always defended his right to make strong statements through his drawings, believing that the cartoonist should not be afraid to approach the frontiers of bad taste in the interests of honesty.

He consistently attacked the Conservative Party, for which he voted, with at least as much vitriol as the parties that did not command his support. He once described himself as a rude little boy speaking out at the awkward moment. Cummings published two major collections of his carroons: These Uproarious Years (1954) and On the Point of My Pen

A long-time member of the Garrick Club, Cumnings was appointed OBE in 1983. He leaves his widow and a

John Merricks,

yachtsman, died in Punta

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**MILESTONES** 

A. L. Rowse, CH. bistorian, died on October He was born on December 4, 1903.

The first working-class boy ever elected to a fellowship of All Souls, A. L. Rowse could never be slow or insipid. He could, however, be ridiculous. Unfortunately, his intellectual curiosity had been snubbed in early life, and his reaction of scorn became a habit. His pride and bitter resentment of criticism - as well as a prolific output of work that is better forgotten - was to obscure the solid achievement of his fine books about Tudor and Elizabethan England. In 1973 he claimed to have identified the "Dark Lady" of Shakespeare's sonnets as Emilia Lanier. The scholarship and ingenuity were considerable. but the case was not generally accepted. However, in his last, as in his first writings,

his understanding of Corn-

wall, his native county achieved a depth and vibrancy that best expressed his personality. Obituary published on October 6.

Lady Brook, CBE,

founder of the Brook

Advisory Centres, died on October 3. She was born on October 12, 1907. Helen Brook played a large role in the sexual revolution of the 1960s, and although she believed neither in free love nor in single-parent families, she was the first to offer contraceptive services to girls under the age of consent. She married at 18, but was soon divorced. She spent two years in Paris working as a painter before returning to London and marrying Robin Brook. She worked for the Family Planning Association from 1952, and was director of the Marie Stopes Memor-

ial Clinic from 1961, where



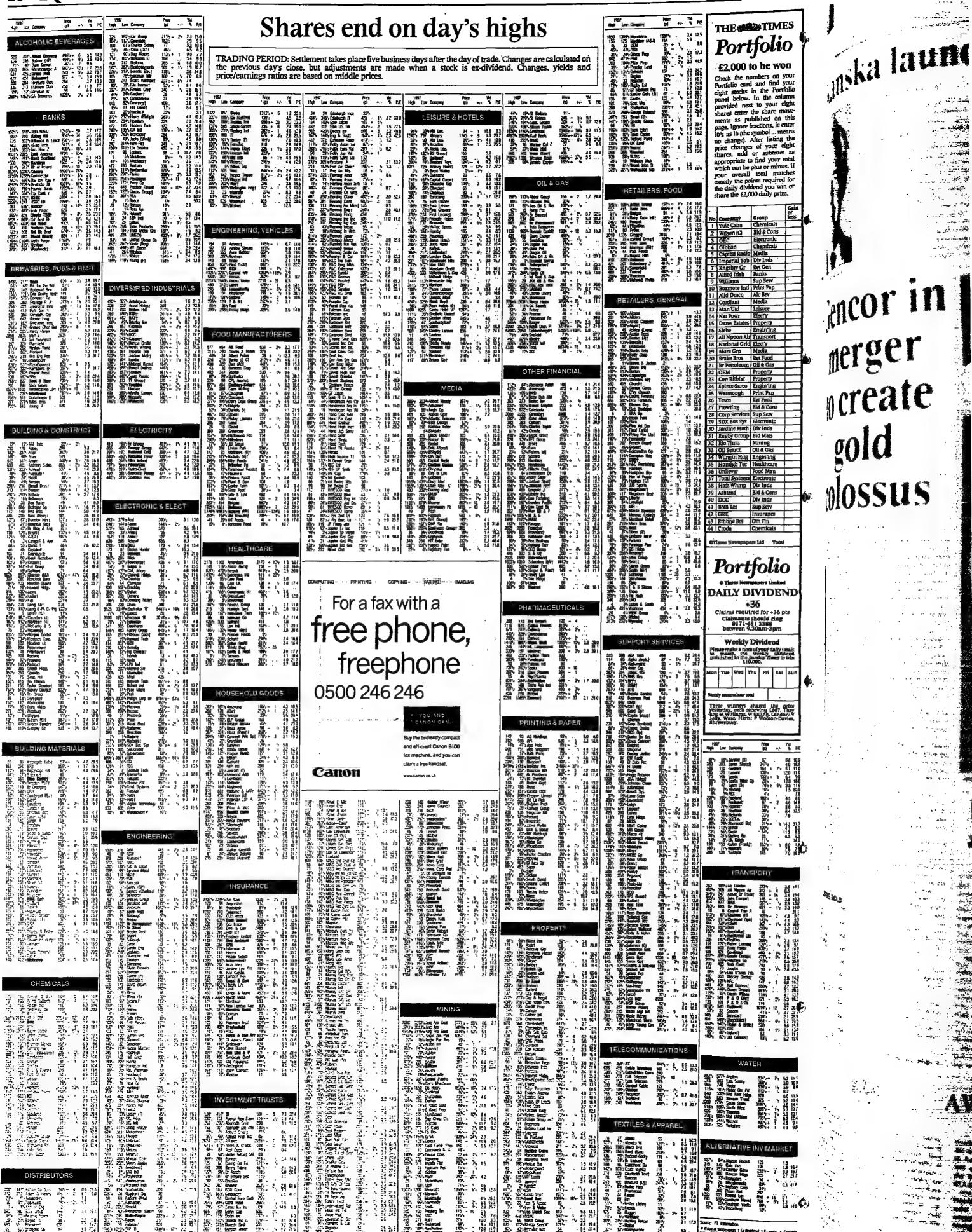
after the launch of the Pill in 1963 she began advising unmarried women. Breaking away in the following year. she opened the first Brook Advisory Centre, and in 1967 she began seeing underage girls without consulting their parents or GPs. Many people were scandalised, but she argued that ignorance does not ensure innocence. Obituary published on

October 7.

Ala, Italy, on October 8. He was born on February 16, 1971. John Merricks, who was killed at Punta Ala. at just 26. was one of the most talented

racing yachtsmen of his generation. In his short life he had amassed a string of successes at the highest international level, winning a silver medal in the 470 class at the Olympic Games last year, and the Mumm 36 class in the Admiral's Cup this summer. He began sailing on Rutland Water, where the sailing club awarded him a 420 dinghy, in which he raced with Rob Wilson to victory in successive youth championships. He and lan Walker were IYRU world champions in 1994 and European champions in

Obituary published on October 10



encor in nerger ocreate gold



Bourguignon's Gallic flair for Club Med

# BUSINESS

**WEEKEND** SECTION2 PAGES 51-64

**BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft** 

SATURDAY OCTOBER II 1997

# Skanska launches rescue bid for Costain



Costain: will stand down

By GEORGE SIVELL

SKANSKA has launched an 11th-hour rescue for Costain, the troubled UK building and construction group whose shares have been suspended for almost a year.

A financial reconstruction outlined yesterday allows Skanska, the Scandinavian engineering and construction group, to take a stake of 7.6 per cent, which could be increased to 40 per cent, triggering a full bid, under a complex option arrangement.

Costain, whose shares were suspended at 45p, is to raise around £47.5 million in an open offer of one new share for each 1.59 shares held at 40p. It will be backed by the three biggest shareholders who at present control three quarters of the company. They

are Intria of Malaysia, Kharafi of Kuwait and Raymond of Saudi Arabia holding 37.2 per cent, 19.7 per cent and 7.6 per cent respectively if the offer takes effect. Other shareholders, in-

cluding banks, will hold 27.9 per cent. Skanska and Costain have been working together on the Bridgend Part Prison, a large private finance initiative scheme, Skanska is to underwrite part of

the offer and is expected to emerge with a 7.6 per cent stake. Costain's long-suffering banks are underwriting the rest of the offer and will in the process convert £19 million of debt into shares. The Scandinavians have also been granted options over Costain shares held by the big three shareholders which, if exercised in full, would give it 40 per cent of the

Shareholders will be asked to approve the deal at a special meeting on November 3, and the shares are expec-

ted to be relisted by Friday November 7, one year after their suspension. Peter Costain, the last remaining link with the founding Costain family. will step down as non-executive deputy

The financial reconstruction will leave Costain with shareholders' funds of £26 million and net cash of £58.6 million. In return for its financial support Skanska will have the right to bid jointly with Costain for any building and civil engineering projects worth £20 million or more for which Costain might bid.

Costain also took the opportunity to

half-year results for 1997. They have been marred by problems over the disposal of the US Coal subsidiary and the reduction in purchase price from £21 million to £14 million.

Before the effects of the open offer are taken into account Costain ended its latest half year of trading with £21.4 million of liabilities. In the year to end December 1996 the company suffered a pre-tax loss of £62.3 million, against £142.6 million for 1995. Sales in 1996 fell to £744.5 million from £824 million in 1995. No dividends have been paid. For the six months to June 30 1997 Costain suffered loss before interest and tax of £3.7 million (£13 million) on sales down from £357 million to £317 million.

Tempus, page 31

#### Top posts at NewRo filled by old hands

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

HOWARD DAVIES, executive chairman of the new financial services watchdog, has named the team that will implement a wide-ranging hake-up of City regulation.

Richard Farrant, head of the Securities and Futures Authority: Michael Foot, superviser at the Bank of England; and Philip Thorpe, chief executive of Imro, have been appointed managing directors at NewRo, the body that will succeed the Securities and Investments Board.

The Government has drawn heavily from the old financial regulatory bodies criticised by Labour in opposition. The Treasury says it seeks to ensure continuity.

Mr Farrant, 53, is to start as chief operating officer at the end of next week. He will chair the management committee and be responsible for operations. Mr Foot, 50, will be in charge of the supervi-sion of banks, building societies, securities firms, insurance kets. Mr Thorpe, 43, will become authorisation, enforcement

and consumer relations. The new regulator will be formally launched in London on October 28. It will replace the nine current regulatory bodies, have a staff of 2.100, and will supervise banks, investment firms, stockbrokers, advisers, building societies and insurance companies.

> Commentary, page 29 City Diary, page 30

### the end of Brent Walker BRENT WALKER, the debt-

William

Hill sale

laden leisure group, has asked to be delisted from the Stock Exchange after confirmation yesterday that William Hill. bookmaker, its last major asset, is to be sold to Nomura International for £700 million.

The proceeds of the sale. plus a further £49 million of surplus cash in the William Hill business, will be used to pay off a chunk of the group's £1.3 billion-plus debt mountain, but the shortfall means ordinary shareholders will receive nothing. When the deal is completed next month, Brent Walker, whose shares peaked at 465p in 1987, will be wound up, probably through liquidation

Yesterday's deal effectively closes the book on a company that became one of the stock market's darlings in the 1980s. George Walker, a former East End boxer, borrowed heavily to create a glamorous empire ranging from luxury hotels and casinos to pubs, golf courses and marinas, but came badly unstuck during the recession

He was ousted in 1991, although three years later he was acquitted after a multimillion-pound fraud trial.

Nomura, as with its recent £1.2 billion purchase of Inntrepreneur and Spring Inns. is acquiring William Hill through a specially-created vehicle, the Grand Bookmaking Company.

Guy Hands, head of principle finance at Nomura International, will sit on the GBC board and is expected to securitise the business's cashflow.

There had been suggestions that Mr Hands was planning to sack the William Hill its support for a rival bid from CVC Capital partners. However, a spokesman for Nomura said last night that discussions with John Brown,

managing director, and his team had been "very positive". William Hill is the UK's second largest chain of bookies after Ladbrokes, with 1.531 shops and 9,000 employees. It made a profit last year of £50.3 million from turnover of £1.65

Commentary, page 29

#### **BUSINESS** TODAY

STOCK MARKET

US RATE

Federal Funds..... 57,%\* (57,%) Long Bond....... 99722\* (10075) Yield ............ 6.42%\* (6.36%)

STERLING

555 DOLLAR

Tokyo alase Yen Classi NORTH SEA OIL rent 15-day (Dec) \$20.70 (\$20.60)

GOLD .. London close..... \$329,15 (\$330.60) \* danotes middley trading price

#### MCI expected to open talks with WorldCom

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

MCI is expected to open after asking its investment bankers to seek more information on WorldCom's \$30 billion takeover offer that is threatening MCI's \$24 billion

merger with BT.
The full MCI board met yesterday to hear presentations from Lazard Frères and ers. Sir Peter Bonfield, the BT chief executive, was excluded interest over whether to recommend BT's offer or WorldCom's offer.

Lazard and Lehman will work together during the negotiations. BT is expected to announce shortly whether it will participate in the negotiations. The MCI board is to give any formal recommendation to shareholders on which bid to accept.

# merger to create gold colossus BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

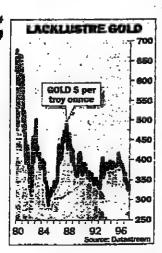
Gencor in

GENCOR, the South African mining company, is to merge launching a takeover bid by mining company, is to merge its gold interests with Gold Fields of South Africa to create the world's largest

gold company.
The deal, which combines three of the richest goldfields in the world, is likely to spark another round of consolidation in the gold mining industry. Gold mining companies have come under inense pressure in the past year after the collapse of international gold prices, which have touched 12-year

lows in recent months. Gencor said yesterday that the deal would establish the first major group to own 100 per cent of its mining assets in South Africa, making the company a more attractive proposition for investors. Brian Gilbertson, chairman, said: The deal brings together some of the finest gold mines in the world. We will be able to drive down costs substantially and have the financial muscle to step up exploration around

Analysts said yesterday that the merger would be a blow to rival mining groups, including Anglo American, which will hold a small stake in the new venture via its shareholding in GFSA and JCI. -Anglo has been slowly building up its position in GFSA for a number of years



eptiles were at large in the City this week. Big

on unsuspecting victims. The hunting ground was the sta-

tic-charged world of electron-

ic trading, the latest

milestone in the evolution of

the 24-hour trading day.
The Stock Exchange took

advantage of the weekend's

inactivity to test its US-style

trading system, due to kick in

on October 20. Based on the

results, it could be time to sell

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ones. Ready to pounce

#### Khumalo, JCI's chief executive, could find himself further marginalised if Cyril Ramaphosa, the rival black empowerment businessman, takes a 10 per cent stake in GoldCo through New African Investments, his investment

the complex shareholding

structure, including the Aster-

oid subsidiary specifically es-tablished by the Rupert family

to prevent a hostile takeover.

holds investments in com-

panies such as Richemont and

Vendôme, is believed to have

given the deal his blessing as it

would rationalise the family's

JCI, which has been press-

ing for a separate merger with

Lornho, had also expressed an

interest in merging some of its minefields with Gencor and

owns a small stake in a

Analysts warned that Mzi

subsidiary of GSFA.

stakes in GFSA and Gencor.

But Johan Rupert, who

"Gilbertson will be a star in Africa having sealed his second deal in a year, while Ramaphosa's stock will also rise if he secures a stake," said

It is also possible that GFSA could re-enter the battle for JCI's Tavistock coal mine, which is currently under offer to Lonrho for £225 million.

GoldCo will be based around three mining sites in Driefontein, Kloof and the southern Orange Free State. Other non-core assets are likely to be sold off over the next two years. The two companies will be making offers to minority shareholders in the separate goldfields in the com-

Current annual production will total four million ounces with resources estimated to be

Under the terms of the deal, Gencor will purchase Asteroid and take an indirect stake in GSFA, in return for selling its stake in the merged company. GoldCo, to GSFA.

ders for millions of shares,

wait for a hapless victim to

enter the wrong price, then

strike before there is time to

correct the error. Saturday's

chaos included an order for

£8 billion in PowerGen

shares, while someone else

sold Halifax shares at 'zp. The Stock Exchange said

Tempos, page 31



### DTI takes a look at troubled Azlan

By PAUL DURMAN

THE Department of Trade and Industry is taking an interest in Azlan, a computer network equipment company that yesterday revealed a catalogue of accounting blunders, a lack of financial controls, and suspected acts of concealment and impropriety by senior employees.

Azlan's failure to deal prop-erly with mounting trade debts and stocks wiped out the £15.1 million profit it thought it had made, pushing it to a EI4.1 million loss. Barrie Morgans, who has stepped in as chair-man and chief executive, said that Azlan would not have survived but for the support of its bankers.

Mr Morgans said Azlan had had contacts with DTI officials, but he did not know whether the

department was planning a full investigation. An investigation by KPMG.

the company's auditor, con-cluded that Azlan had suffered "a serious failure of management and internal financial control". It identified "certain areas of wrong-doing ... including serious neglect on the part of individuals and, possi-bly, acts of concealment and improper behaviour". In some cases, what controls existed

management.
Azian is raising £24.2 million to ensure its survival, with a two-for-one rights issue at 37p a share - compared with the 555p price before its shares were suspended in June.

were over-ridden by senior

Commentary, page 29

### Fears grow over cut in pension tax relief

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

HIGHER-RATE taxpayers are being urged to pay as much as possible into pension olans before November's green Budget" amid fears that the Government is planning to reduce relief on contributions.

Currently, people in the 40 per cent tax bracket get relief at the highest rate on all payments made into personal pensions or employers' schemes. However, many in the industry believe Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is contemplating cutting relief to the basic rate of 23 per cent next month, and in the process raising an extra £1 billion.

Barbara Williamson, pensions director of Berry Birch & Noble, the independent financial adviser, said: "There is a

50-50 chance the Government will take action and introduce the measure from the date of the Budget. Alternatively, it could be brought in from the beginning of the next financial year. If they do so it will not motivate people to continue paying into plans."

Charles Levett-Scrivener, a soccialist with Towry Law, the financial adviser, said: "I am surprised such a move has not already happened. There are around 25 million higher-rate taxpayers who would be The Department for Social

Security said: "There is a growing gap between rich and poor pensioners. However, no decision has yet been taken."

Weekend Money, page 55

#### AWEEK IN THE CITY

musings about the US econo-

On Thursday, the Bundesbank's decision to raise its key money market

inflation from 3.5 per cent to

the week fell to Liam Strong. recently of Sears, the Selfridges-to-shoes group. Ordinarily, his appointment to the board of an obscure US brow. That the company was WorldCom, bidding \$30 billion for MCI to scupper BT's executive of WorldCorn International, confirms his reputation as a corporate chameleon, having worked with mustard and soap, airlines, shoes, and now telecoms. Paler around the

gills is Sir Robert Horton, remembered for his acerbic style at British Petroleur who quit as chairman of JKX Oil and Gas, ending what could have been an oil industry comeback. He remains chairman of Railtrack. A collective sigh of relief at

Canary Wharf when Commerzbank formerly declared itself out of the running for BZW. hurled on to the market by Barclays ten days ago.

No one in equities or corporate finance, the bits being sold, seemed particularly wild about the prospect of working for the Germans. favouring an American buyer. Big bonuses were dangled, as the list of rumoured buyers continued to grow.

The week would not be complete without one big payoff. Ray Irani, chairman Occidental Petroleum, agreed to redraft the terms of his contract with the US oil group in return for a one-off payment of \$95 million (£57 million). Enough to make the

JON ASHWORTH

#### If you like the sound of the South of France you'll love the taste.

A faraway look comes into people's eyes when mention is made of the South of France. For most, it is the capital of chic: a sun-kissed playground of exotic resorts and spectacular scenery studded with ancient vineyards - among them, La Motta, La Boulandiere and Les Garrigues de Truilhas, where James Herrick makes the definitive Midi Chardonnay. Rich, stylish and full of taste; fresh, yet fruity and long-finishing. And amazingly inexpensive. Why settle for vin ordinaire when you can afford the glorious South? laines Herrick CHARDONNAY VIN DE PAYS D'OF James Herrick

AVAILABLE COUNTRYWIDE FROM ASOA, BERKELEY WINE, FOTTOMS (P. THE COOP, EH BOOTH, ELDRIDGE POPE, EUROPA, FULLERS, MURRISONS, COOPER'S RUSSELL CELLARS SAINSBURY, SAFEWAY, SAMERBIELD, STAT RUSSELL CELLARS SAINSBURY, SAFEWAY, SOMERFIELD, STAR, TESCO, THRESHES L'NWINS, VICTORIA WINE WAITRONE, WINE CELLAR, WINE RACK, WIN VIHOU, SE

brought out that most repulsive of City opportunists, The one panics all the same. Greenspan's - gloomy Snake in the Grass. These slippery predators input or-

that it would be fine on the Less optimistic about life was that venerable iguana. Alan Greenspan, who was living up to his reputation as a modern-day Nostradamus. Nobody understands what he's talking about, but every-

my caused predictable chaos in London, with the FISE 100 see-sawing on Wednes-day from a high of 60.9 to end 43.5 in the red.

interest rate, the repo. brought more of the same, with shares plunging 96 points at one stage.

Not yet locked in to EMU

behaviour, the Bank of England's monetary policy committee decided to leave UK interest rates at 7 per cent, in spite of gloomy tidings on the inflation front. Rising mortgage costs pushed headline 3.6 ner cent, the highest for two years. Inflation has breached the Government's target for the fourth successive month since the The surprise coroeback of

telecoms company would barely have raised an eyeexpansion plans, made this one rather different. Strong, who becomes chief

**BAe in European** 

THE European defence industry consolidated further yesterday as British Aerospace and Lagardère of France

took a joint stake in LFK, the guided-weapons subsidiary of

Germany's Daimler Benz Aerospace. The two companies

have taken a 30 per cent stake, 15 per cent each, through

their existing Matra BAe Dynamics joint venture. The

agreement is subject to regulatory approval. BAe said

yesterday that the deal. announced after the London market had closed, would strengthen its position in upcoming bids, including Germany's Taurus "stand-off"

missile programme and the arming of the forthcoming Eurofighter. It said the benefits to the European defence industry would come from shared marketing of an

integrated product range.

LFK made a loss of DM42 million (£15 million) in 1996 on a turnover of DM884 million. The loss includes restructuring costs that BAe would not quantify yesterday.

It said the business, which operates from three sites in Germany and employs 1,500 people, was now responding to these remedial measures. At the end of 1996, LFK had net assets of DM66 million.

CELSIS INTERNATIONAL, the hygiene monitoring company, has raised £3.7 million through new shares at 95p to help to fund its purchase of Scientific Associates, a US

contract testing laboratory in St Louis, Missouri. The £4.4 million purchase and a new alliance with Cadbury

Schweppes are the latest moves in an attempt to win market

acceptance for its rapid contamination detection monitors.

Scientific made a pre-tax profit of \$600,000 (£370,000) on sales of \$6.9 million in the year to September 30.

Chrysler earnings drop

CHRYSLER, the US automotive company, said higher incentives, market share losses and model changeovers in the

summer caused a 35 per cent drop in third-quarter earnings. But the results exceeded Wall Street estimates, and Chrysler

moved to appease shareholders by saying it will buy back

another \$2 billion worth of stock by the end of 1998. Chrysler

September period, down from \$680 million, or 93 cents a

Lloyds TSB agreement

earned \$441 million, or 65 cents a share, during the July to

Celsis raises £3.7m

defence venture

# Ombudsman delivers NFC pensions victory

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Pensions Ombudsman has granted an historic victory to NFC. the privarised haulage group, in a dispute over £263.7 million of pension surpluses.

This is the first time that Julian Farrand has sided with a privatised company on the issue of pension surpluses. Last year the Ombudssurplus from the Government. A against the Industrial Training case between the trustee and the Boards. Department of Transport is to be

In a test case for the electricity industry that was heard earlier this year. Dr Farrand ordered National Grid to repay £46 million of surpluses, although the decision was overturned on appeal at the High Court and a counter appeal is man ordered the National Bus pending. In July of this year Dr Company to recover £168 million of Farrand made a similar ruling

Yesterday, however, Dr Farrand rejected a complaint from Harold Clark, a former NFC manager, who has campaigned against the merger of three NFC pension funds in 1992. By merging funds for salaried and waged staff with another fund it had established in 1988, the year before its flotation, NFC gained the right to claim for a return of surpluses. Although it has not exercised this

right, it has used the surpluses to fund a contributions holiday since 1988. Yesterday NFC said it would not pay into the funds for at least

another three years. In his complaint Mr Clark accused NFC and its pension trustee of misusing surpluses arising from 1988, 1991 and 1994. He said NFC had always acted in its own interests and not those of its members. Distributions of surpluses in the form of benefit enhancements had discriminated against the fund of which he was a member, he claimed.

Dr Farrand said Mr Clark, now retired, had benefited from the merger and that companies were under no obligation to put members' interests first.

A spokesman for the Ombudsman said there had been no change of direction by Dr Farrand and that the sequence of judgments on privatised companies had been coincidental.

# Casino's

CASINO, the French retailer, Monoprix chain

The move was part of a three-way deal that saw

Paul-Louis Halley, the Promodes chairman, reacted ment in a takeover battle

sults, political intrigue and family squabbles. "We cannot abandon our offer," he said. M. Halley offered PrZ7.8 bil-lion for Casino last month and increased his offer by Fr3 billion this month. Rallye, the rival retailer which already owns 33 per cent of Casino's shares, responded with a white knight offer, which was welcomed by Casino's board

Guichard family, who control 8 per cent of the shares and 16 per cent of the voting rights.

# New move to fend off

tail group for Fri 61 billion.

block a hostile offer from the retailer Promodes in the hope of retaining a measure of in-dependence. The French food industry is undergoing fierce restructuring, watched with interest by Tesco, which is expected to seek a buyer for Catteau, its French supermarket chain, which is valued at between £200 million and £300 million.

and, initially at least, by mem-bers of the chain's founding

# predators FROM ADAM SAGE

struck an important blow in its struggle to fend off a hostile Fr31 billion (about E3.26 billion) takeover bid yesterday when it took a Fr900 million 21.4 per cent stake in the rival

Monoprix purchase the small-er Prisunic chain from the Pinault Printemps Redoute re-

swiftly to the latest developmarked by high finance, in-

# letailers jou for lead in ome delive

A BILL paving the way for the full integration of Lloyds Bank and TSB is expected to be passed next year after banking unions agreed to withdraw two petitions containing amendments. Lloyds TSB, formed via the merger of the two banks in 1995, has agreed with LTU and BIFU that it will recognise them in negotiations on "harmonised" terms and conditions for staff. Passage of the Bill will enable the banks to become one legal entity. This will mean that its customer databases can be integrated, giving more opportunity to cross-sell financial products.

#### Forest slips on debut

SHARES of Nottingham Forest, the football club, closed at 61p yesterday, their first day of trading, against the 70p offer price. The shares trade on the Alternative Investment Market. Nottingham Forest, relegated last season, hopes to make a prompt return to the Premiership and the stock market flotation was to provide funds to strengthen the playing squad. Some five million shares were put up by the club, and only 3.7 million were actually applied for. Leicester City is the next club to head for the stock market on October 24.

#### **Link-up lifts Tradepoint**

SHARES in Tradepoint, the electronic market set up to win business from the London Stock Exchange, rose more than 12 per cent yesterday on news that the company has linked up with the leading trading software suppliers to big investment banks. It has signed a deal that will enable users of Royalblue's fidessa software to access Tradepoint on the same screen as London Stock Exchange trading. The shares, which have risen sharply in recent months on the back of a refinancing and boardroom changes, rose 15p to 136 5p.

#### Waterman's record year

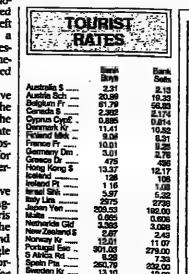
WATERMAN PARTNERSHIP, the consulting engineer, raised pre-tax profits by 62 per cent to £1.08 million in the year to June 30. The total dividend rises from 1.2p to 1.85p out of earnings up from 2.6p to 4p. Bob Campbell, managing director, said: This has been a record year for the group in volume terms, with excellent and sustainable growth in work done and in profits. Our order book continues to grow and now stands at a record level. Waterman has improved margins over the year."

#### Innovative chief leaves

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES, the wound-dressing company, has parted with its founders, the husband and wife team of Keith Gilding and Diane Mitchell. Mr Gilding has been replaced as chief executive by Roy Smith, the former Johnson & Johnson executive who joined Innovative in April and took control of the woundcare business only last month, innovative has struggled to make sales. Mr Smith said that Mr Gilding had shown tremendous entrepreneurial drive, but the company needed to focus on commercialising its products.

#### Hewetson buoyant

HEWETSON, the building materials group, yesterday said its first-half profits would be above market expectations. The shares rose 9½ p to 108½ p in response. Hewetson said trading in the first six months to September 30 has been buoyant, with significantly improved margins over the same period last year. Interim profits will be higher than market expectations and substantially higher than those achieved in 1996". Hewetson said that it plans to announce its interim results on November 5.



Who runs British business? The first comprehensive study, of 14,000 company directors and senior managers — their educational.

professional and recreational background — reveals some surprising answers ...

Sunday Times Business,

# New York rebuffs UBS over \$1bn bond deal

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY officials have punished UBS for its role in the Nazi gold row by cutting the Swiss investment bank out of a \$1 billion (£600 million) municipal bond deal.

UBS is being replaced by NatWest Markets on the deal worth several million dollars in fees, making it NatWest's biggest deal of its kind. Alan Hevesi, the city comp-

troller, said the move was triggered by the bank's reluctance to help the investigation of funds deposited in Swiss bank vaults during the war. The case is believed to be the first official sanction resulting from the Mr Hevesi said he objected to

UBS earning million-dollar fees from business with the city while its Swiss directors remained unapologetic over the bank's conduct.

New York City is planning to borrow \$1.075 billion against future federal and state payments for welfare and education expenditure. UBS had led the group of finance houses that organised the deal and was expected to receive half of the

Mr Hevesi asked the group to reconfigure the team of banks to exclude UBS" and they complied, replacing it with NatWest and SocGen, Now the future involvement of UBS in New York City bond issues is uncertain. Over the past 20 operation".

vears. UBS has helped the city out of several financial crises. Mr Hevesi said: "We were faced with the decision of whether to go ahead and do business as usual or send a

message to Union Bank of Switzerland. We decided it would be sending the wrong message to accept the bid." UBS is one of the top ten banks on Wall Street with \$1.7 billion in capital. Richard Capone, the US head of UBS.

said: "We respect the position

of the comptroller even though

we do not agree with it. "We are proud of the fact that the Swiss banks are working extremely hard and providing leadership in re-solving the Second World War dormant accounts issue fairly and with sensitivity. We unand complex issue, and we are committed to understanding the truth and doing what is

Mr Hevesi's actions were

criticised by the US State Department which is trying to get Swiss banks to make large donations to Holocaust survivors. Stuart Eizenstat, the Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, said New York's actions "further inflame passions in Switzer-land" and insisted that "confrontation with the banks will achieve far less than co-



# BNB profits fall by 25%

BNB RESOURCES, the recruitment and training com-pany, yesterday blamed a 25 per cent slump in interim pretax profits from £2.4 million to El.8 million on falling earnings at Norman Broadbent International, the group's flagship headhunting arm. The hit on BNB's profits will compound the embar-

rassment caused by NBI,

which has seen several key staff defect to join, or set up. rival organisations over the past two years. Senior staff who have left include Miles Broadbent, the division's cofounder, and Julian Sainty, a financial services specialist.

BNB also confirmed vesterday that David Norman had stepped down as chairman and chief executive to become

non-executive chairman. Graham Durgan has been promoted to chief executive. BNB's turnover grew by 11 per cent, from £56.3 million to

£62.6 million, in the six months to June 30, while earnings per share fell 22 per cent, from 6.9p to 5.4p. An unchanged interim dividend of 24p will be paid on

# A TIMES NEWSPAPERS PRIZE DRAW

# FOUR FABULOUS CARS TO BE WON

Give the Churchill car insurance dog a Phone 0800 200 380

This week The Times has teamed up

1 with The Sunday Times and Churchill Insurance, to offer readers the chance to win one of four exciting cars. Each one reflects a different lifestyle and is worth more than £20,000.

The waiting list for the Lotus Elise, pictured, stretches an incredible 18 months but we have acquired one for a lucky reader. He or she will be ushered into an

exclusive band of drivers privileged enough to own a sports car with pedigree as well as performance. It is technically innovative with fabulous styling and incredible handling and has scored more plaudits from more pundits than almost any sports car.



#### HOW TO ENTER

Simply collect 10 differently numbered tokens from The Times and two differently numbered tokens from The Sunday Times. Tokens will be published daily until Sunday. November 2 Attach your tokens to the entry form which will be published on Saturday. Entries must be received by the closing date, Monday, November 10, 1997

rehase necessary. You can obtain bonus tokens and an entry form by sending a stamped sur to: The Times/Churchill's Token Request, PO Box 5077 Leighton Buzzard LU77GD. A maximum of three bonus tokens per sac permitted, requests must be received by November 1, 1997

THE TIMES/CHURCHILL INSURANCE PRIZE DRAW ENTRY FORM										
1	THE		rently numbered tokens to arrive by Monday, November 10, sw, PO Box 5078, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7GB.							
	20	Title First name	1. Which of the following age groups do you that crito? (Please tick boo)   15-24   1							
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	72	Address								
			2. Which rational daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less,?							
ļ	CHURCHILL	The property of the second state of the second seco								
į	INSURANCE	Postcode	4 Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (24 copies a moratif							
i	PRIZE DRAW	Dav tel								

many times as you wish. Each entry must be on an official entry form (no photocopies accepted) accompanied by 10 differently numbered tokens from The Times and two differently numbered tokens from The Sunday Times. 3 Entry forms will be published in The Times on October 11, 13, 18, 20, 25 and 27 and in The Sunday Times on October 19, 26 and Navember 2, 4 Tokens will be printed daily in The Times between October 6 and Reventer 1 Four loans will be preted in The Standay Times, one each week, between October 12 and November 2 5 Entines must be received by Monday November 10, 1997. 6 Witness will be drawn at random from all correct entires received. 7 Staff of Times Newspapers Ltd and Churchill Management Ltd and their families or agents are not permitte to enter 8 The prizes do not include insurance or road tax. 9 There is no cash alternative and

TOKEN 6

10 The cars will be delivered to the winners' homes in the UK only 11 The Got VR6 and Renault Espace will be available on Decamber 1, 1997, the Lotus Hise in January 1998 and the Land Rover Freelander in February 1998, 12 No purchase necessary. You can obbonus tokens and an entry form by sending a stamped see to: The Times Churchill's Token Request, PO Box 5077. Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7GD. A maximum of times borus tokens per asis must be received by November 1, 1997. 13 You can collect to lokens each day in person (Mon-Fn) from News Internatio or 124, Portman St, Kinning Park, Glasgow G41, 14 Winners will be notified by November 30, 1997, 15 Normal TNL rules apply, available by sending a stamped see to the loken nequest address above marked Prize-draw Rules, 16 Promoter: TNL, 1 Penalogical St, E1 9XN

CHANGING TIMES

# **Ulster TV move** pleases Scottish

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

SCOTTISH MEDIA is privately pleased that CanWest Global Communications has raised its stake in Ulster Television to 7.4 per cent.

The stake-building by the Canadian-owned company. which is barred from taking control of Ulster TV because it is a non-European Union company, is being seen as helping to keep Ulster on ice for Scottish, the television and newspaper group. Scottish now holds more

than 18 per cent in Ulster TV and there is little doubt that it would like to take control as long as it does not have to

Directors recently bought 11 per cent of Ulster TV to help to

stake is now worth almost £15 The Scottish view is that with more than 36 per cent of the company held by three groups of shareholders it would not be easy for an external predator to swoop.

ensure that any potential pur-

chaser would have to pay what they saw as a fair value

for the ITV company. Their

At the very least Scottish wants to ensure that one of the three large ITV groups, Carlton, Granada and United News & Media, is not able to consolidate their power by swallowing Ulster.

Scottish sees Ulster TV as a way of reaching the all-lreland advertising market.

#### Prices data rattles Wall Street

By Janet Bush

WALL STREET ended a difficult week with another negative shock in the form of a much larger than expected rise in producer prices in September.

The US producer prices index rose 0.5 per cent, more than twice the 0.2 per cent rise anticipated by economists, and the biggest rise since last December. Core producer prices, which exclude food and energy, rose 0.4 per cent. Core prices had risen by only 0.1 per

cent in August. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 50 points at the opening in reaction, but later clawed back some of its losses. The market regained its

poise as analysts noted that the increase in producer prices was largely down to steep rises in the prices of tobacco and passenger vehicles, regarded The markets remain hyper-

sensitive to any signs of incipient inflation after Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, spoke of the danger of price pressures re-emerging as unemploy-ment falls further.

#### Sweden opts for delay over EMU

BY JANET BUSH

SWEDEN yesterday formally ruled out joining a single currency in the first wave, currently scheduled for Jamiary I. 1999. The minority Social Demo-

cratic government proposed that the door should be left open for membership at a later date but said the question of economic and monetary union would be decided in a referendum. But Sweden's Conservative

opposition party called for the crown to be linked to the European Exchange Rate Mechanism as soon as possible to pave the way for membership of EMU, preferably at the start of 1999. ☐ Ian Plenderleith, executive

director of the Bank of England, told a seminar in Paris that City preparations for the euro were well under way and that the advent of the single currency would be an opportunity rather than threat for London as a financial centre. He said that firms had not been deterred by uncertainty

over Britain's position on the

single currency.

An exclusive survey, in The

Gerpands

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lurns u

eorge Walker's reput-Tation as a fighter goes beyond his early days in the boxing ring. Even as the struggle to sort out the commercial disaster he created went into its final round, he was leaping

A STATE OF THE STA

its final round, he was leaping into the ring, trying to dissuade Nomura from buying the William Hill betting shops.

But Nomura's Guy Hands was not to be deterred, even by the pugnacious Mr Walker. The deal was done and, with its completion, Brent Walker, George Walker's corporate folly, was effectively consigned to oblivion. The company can now be wound up, the fate that Mr Walker had wanted to postpone Walker had wanted to postpone while he continued with audacious efforts to sue the business through the French courts.

A defunct company will take no heed of whatever conclusion the French judiciary reaches in Mr Walker's claim for damages from the company he founded but which was, eventually, driven to sack him. Shareholders may see some justice in this may see some justice in this, since their share certificates are now officially worthless. Even though the company's annual reports had screamed that there would be nothing left for ordinary shareholders after the dismemberment, there were still some naive enough to hope.

But the bankers who backed Mr Walker's ambitions will get back very much more than they could have expected, thanks to the efforts of Sir Brian Goswell,

# Nomura wins Hands down

ه حكة امن رالإمل

the chairman, and John Leach. chief executive. Mr Leach arrived at Brent Walker six years ago with the intention of spending six months helping a hit squad to put things to rights. It has taken him rather longer, but yesterday he was delighted to have done himself out of a job.

The two main banking creditors, Standard Chartered and Lloyds TSB, have not gished him. at Brent Walker six years ago

Lloyds TSB, have not rushed him and have benefited from the wait In line with the old maxim, Brent Walker's debts of over El billion ensured that it received rather better treatment than a company in hock for just a few thousand. Instead of some up-start regional manager pulling the rug out from under at the first sign of trouble, this case received the personal attention of Malcolm Williamson and Sir Brian Pitman. Their approach has meant that, instead of being run down and pushed into a fire sale, William Hill has been sold as a strong business with a price to match. Perhaps the two bank chiefs should give a tutorial to some of their lowlier staff on the

merits of this approach?
We have yet to learn of Mr Hands's plans for the business, beyond finding investors pre-pared to take on the securitised



William Hill. He might consider parcelling his huge assortment of pubs with his newly acquired betting shops to create an investment that some Sids might find irresistible.

But Nomura's success does raise questions over another leisure business. Bass, banned from taking over Carlsberg Tetley, had examined William Hill as a complement to its Coral bookmaking business. Where will Sir Ian Prosser look next?

#### The witch in Azlan's wardrobe

Besides being the name of a company boasting of being Europe's largest supplier of equipment and training for computer networks, Azlan was the name of the lion in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, CS Lewis's children's classic. A thorough spring-clean-ing of Azlan's wardrobe has pro-

duced a very scary witch indeed. As a lesson in what happens when a business runs out of control, it will take some beating. The litany of failings that runs through yesterday's mammoth statement of the company's position is extraordinary. A long list of basic accounting errors adds up to a lack of financial controls, a failure to apply those that existed, and, worst of all, a willingness to override checks that produced inconvenient numbers. So instead of the £15.1 million profit the company imag-ined it had made in April, last year's trading actually produced a loss of EI4.1 million. Azlan was

seemingly so desperate to meet its City forecasts that it stopped bothering to pay its suppliers for the rapidly accumulating stocks. Some indication of the scale of the "serious neglecf . . . [possible] acts of concealments and im-proper behaviour" is the fact that Azian has disciplined, warned or accepted resignations from 18

people. Meeting all those unpaid bills would have forced Azlan into receivership but for the sup-port of SBC Warburg Dillon Read. To carry on, it needs to raise £24.2 million in a rights is-sue pitched at an astonishing 93 per cent discount to the previous market price of the shares. Discounts cannot come much deeper. The largest share of the blame

for this catastrophe must rest with Adrian Lamb, the former finance director who seems to have been hopelessly out of his depth but is hanging on to the £33,333 bonus he took in May in recognition of the company's supposed achievement of its targets. This fallacy started to fall apart as soon as Mr Lamb was replaced by Peter Bartram.

Although Azlan's management accounts were clearly misleading, it is hard to believe that they contained no warning signals for the non-executive directors.

headed by Michael Brooke. The Azlan affair also calls into

question the worth of auditors' reviews of interim results. KPMG, whose forensic team have now dug up all this dirt, failed to spot the flaws last November. Will the firm now feel

#### add up, if the figures themselves are based on wishful thinking. Nothing new at NewRo

inclined to hand back part of its fee? It is not good enough just to

make sure the columns of figures

here is something depress-ingly familiar about the new face of City regula-tion. Apart from the presence at its helm of Howard Davies, himself merely moved over from the Bank of England, the new super-regulator is simply taking the old regulators and giving them new job titles.

This may be enough to turn a system that has been oft castigated for its ineffectualness into a sharp new policeforce for the financial markets, but a dash of new blood would have been so

much more exciting.

Given the scale of the task involved, a chief executive with a proven track record in running large organisations might have

been a useful addition to the panel of regulatory professionals who will now line up below Mr

Davies's chairmanship.
The bearded Richard Farrant apparently believes that his experience in shaping the Securities and Futures Authority will fully equip him to be chief operating officer of the new

authority.
The City, and Mr Davies, will have to hope that he is right because putting together the people and the systems to equip the new authority will be a huge job. The City itself is already divided as to how NewRo will be staffed, some favouring secondments from the industry. while others see worrying possibilities for conflicts of interest in such a structure.

One outsider in the might have brought fresh thinking to such quandaries, but it is

#### **BNB** poser

DAVID NORMAN'S decision to become non-executive rather than executive chairman of BNB Resources, where profits are sliding, begs two questions. First, if other firms followed his and merely promoted the managing director in such circumstances, what would happen to headhunting firms such as his Norman Broadbent International subsidiary. And secondly, will his generous profit share in NBI

# Retailers jockey for lead in home deliveries

J SAINSBURY is changing its strategy on home deliveries by severing its link with Flanagans, the independent com-pany that delivers Sainsbury's groceries to doorsteps around southwest London. phone or fax.

From now on, Sainsbury's intends to concentrate on inhouse development of its services within the increasingly competitive home deliveries market. A spokeswoman for the supermarket group said that the Flanagans' link did not fit in with Sainsbury's own

Flanagans said it will carry . Sainsbury's itself is conducton with its business and still ing trials of two projects —
has plans to extend its delivery order and collect and home

Tesco, Sainsbury's arch-rival, which has overtaken it as Britain's largest supermarket group, is also investing heavily in home delivery trials in parts of London and may extend them to cover the whole

If these are a success, it may then go nationwide with the doorstep service, which costs

Other supermarket groups, including Safeway and Iceland, are also experimenting

with variations on grocery home deliveries. Iceland is extending its service in Edinburgh and the North East of England to include a £4 delivery that can be ordered by

According to Paul Smiddy, food retail analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, "Home delivery is one of those areas where none of the major British groups wants to be left out. But the problem is that while the cost of taking orders has fallen, the cost of delivery

Solihull. It is also working on an electronic shop with Hewlett-Packard, the computer company, and on a personal computer based ordering

Like Safeway, it is also in talks with British Interactive Broadcasting about using interactive television as a platform for selling its groceries.

Dominick Scott-Flanagan, joint chief executive of Flanagans, said that the decision to

end the link with Sainsbury's

had been reached amicably and by mutual agreement. "It will be a phased process, and will finally cease in March,"

Flanagan's has been delivering products supplied by Sainsbury's — although no own-label Sainsbury's goods — for two years for a £4 charge.

The company has recently joined a buying consortium to ensure continuity of supply. Mr. Scott-Flanagan said that customers will notice no change in the service, which is based on a catalogue, and that. Flanagans still plans to expand across London next year.

in Wandsworth, is run by Mr Scott-Flanagan and Adrian Flanagan, his brother. The company ran into difficulties last year and had to be refinanced by private investors.

Tesco's trial is currently running at six of its stores in Hammersmith, Lea Valley, Leeds, Osterley, Romford and Sutton. Tesco also uses the internet for home shopping, with its own superstore".



Standley: the board has recommended acceptance but the way is open for a rival offer

# Appleyard sale creates biggest motor retailer

By CHRIS AYRES

THE motor retail industry braced itself for a significant shake-up yesterday when Appleyard, the struggling Harrogate dealer, received an agreed £53 million offer from Jardine International Motor Holdings.

Appleyard's deal with JIMH, a subsidiary of Jardine Matheson, the multibillionpound Hong Kong conglomerate, will create Britain's biggest motor retailing group, with estimated annual sales of £1.3 billion. The moves comes as many other motor retailers. including Henlys and Lex Service, are selling their dealerships in response to the increasingly harsh demands of manufacturers. They are g to industries with higher margins, and where they have more contol over

Appleyard's current dealerships, which sell both middle-market and volume brands, including Audi and Vauxhall, will initially be run separately from JIMH's upmarket Lancaster business. Lancaster currently holds franchises for Jaguar, Porsche, Ferrari and BMW.

JIMH's bid comes after a

Appleyard, which has struggled to keep its franchises after failing to integrate acquisitons. The company was also recently hit by a fraud scandal. Shares in Appleyard have fluctuated wildly since rumours of potential takeover bids began.

Peter Ward, chief executive of JIMH, said he planned to spend three months reviewing Appleyard's current businesses and management. The problems Appleyard has experienced so far have not necessarily been caused by the management," he said.

"I am hoping we are going to find talented management already in the company. I think it would be unrealistic to see the company turned around in a few months. I would say a year at least."

Appleyard, which made pre-tax losses of £5.1 million last year, saw its shares surge 122p to 782p yesterday. JIMH's bid for Appleyard values its shares at 80p each, a 21.2 per cent premium on yeaterday's closing price. ЛМН has so far secured 25.6 per cent of Appleyard's share capital.

Tempus, page 31

# **DMGT** expands radio empire

By Raymond Snoddy, media editor

DAILY MAIL and General Trust has spent nearly £40 million in expanding its commercial radio empire in Australia. The publisher of the Daily

Mail has acquired Regional Broadcasters Australia, the holding company for the radio assets of Rural Press which runs 25 AM and FM radio stations and has licences for additional FM stations. The stations are in towns such as Cairns and Kalgoorlie and are mainly in regional Queens-land and Western Australia. The total cash price is A\$88 million (£39 million). DMG Radio Australia's existing radio interests are mainly in Victoria and New South Wales.

significant investments in the Australian radio industry. With the new deal the group

can claim it owns the largest number of commercial radio stations in Australia, present in a total of 29 markets. The current portfolio of 20 AM and FM stations will now expand to 55 stations, including 10 FM licensed to go on air in the next

As well as developing the regional network DMG Radio plans to apply for licences in the main metropolitan areas when they become available. Charlie Cox, chairman of DMG Radio Australia, said yesterday: "DMG Radio is

committed to the development

of a significant presence in the

Australian broadcasting

DMG Radio Australia was formed 18 months ago to make

#### Advertising agencies 'out of step'

NIALL FITZGERALD, terday attacked advertising agencies for failing to keep up with communication technologies (Raymond Spoddy writes).

Mr FitzGerald told the European Association of Advertising Agencies in Dublin that there was "an alarming discrepancy" developing between what Unilever brands were going to want and what contemporary agencies were good at.

He said that simple oneway communication, such as network television. had its best and biggest days behind it. Already fast-moving consumer goods manufacturers were starting to find the Internet a personal, cheap and effective brand medium, he added.

## Peek backs £98m takeover bid

- By MARTIN BARROW

PEEK, the supplier of traffic control equipment, is recommending a £98 million takeover bid by Thermo Power, a rival American company.

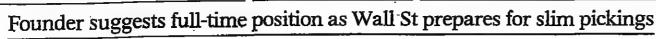
The cash offer of 80p a share is almost double yesterday's closing price of 42p a share but at a significant discount to the 12-month high of 1072 p, struck almost a year ago. David Walsh, who became chairman in May after the ousting of Ken Maud, said the offer "represents good value for Peek

shareholders. Peek shares fell sharply after a profits warning in April, when it said it was likely to incur a £1.5 million first-half loss due to deferred orders. In the first half of the previous year the company had earned £4 million and

the City anticipated steady growth, supported by investment in traffic management systems in the UK and the rest of Europe. In its last financial year Peek, whose chief executive is Allen Standley, earned pre-tax profits of £12.6 million on a turnover of a little more than £162 million.

Yesterday's offer was an-

nounced after the close of trading. Although the Peek board, which is advised by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, has recommended the offer, Thermo and existing directors only speak for about 2.9 per cent of the equity, leaving the way open for a rival offer. Mr Maud speaks for about 3.2 million shares, or around 2.5 per cent, through family trusts.



# Jobs turns up heat on Apple role



STEVE JOBS, the founder of Apple Computer and currently its interim chief executive, surprised Silicon Valley by suggesting he could become full-time

Apple had been on the brink of hiring Sam Palmisano, a senior executive and heir apparent at IBM, for the job but Mr Jobs is said to be the only person capable of saving the ailing computer company. He told an industry conference to expect an announcement on dropping the

'interim" from his title after a holiday to Hawaii where he plans to walk on the beach and think about it". This summer. Mr Jobs ousted Gil

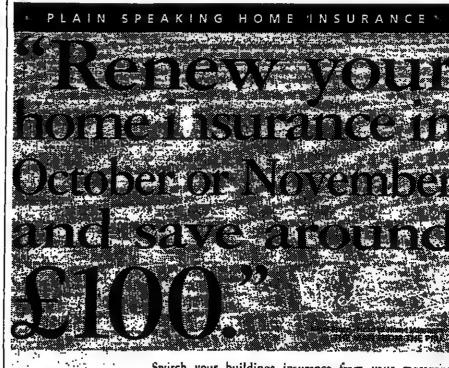
. Amelio, the previous chief executive, after his return to the company he co-founded in 1976. His latest remarks are seen as a testing of investors' opinions on his full return. Tim Bajarin, president of Creative Strategies, said: "The more we look at the situation, most of us have come to see that maybe he is the only guy who can save Apple. It appears there is a dilemma. Steve's role is as a spiritual leader and practical leader."

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

Mr Jobs's remarks will have undermined the search for an outside chief executive and will make his full-time appointment almost inevitable. His tendency to interfere and his continued

interest in day-to-day operations is likely to dismay candidates such as Mr Palmisano. As someone who has worked all his life in a huge corporation. Mr Palmisano is said to be lacking Mr Jobs's maverick, feisty style needed to turn around Apple, a company whose new advertising slogan is "Think different". Next week, Wall Street expects Apple to

announce quarterly losses of 14 cents per share, compared with a six cents profit last year. Mr Jobs has made plain his desire to return the company to profit. He said: "We will be doing some very, very innovative things in distribution in the next 90 days."



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hottest seat in town. This weekend the London Stock Exchange chief executive will be at his workplace again, managing a final dress rehearsal for the biggest most controversial, change to City share trading for 200 years.

It is the sixth weekend that Casey and City workers have spent in the Square Mile testing to destruction a new system that has caused more blood and tears than any of its other revolutions, and cost many millions of pounds.

D-Day is October 20. That is when the 281 member firms switch from the present quote-driven system to a central order book for trading the top FTSE 100 stocks. For the layman, the order book should allow investors to chose how, and at what price, they want an order executed far more efficiently than today.

Casey calls it only the start to an evolutionary process for share trading, not a Big Bang 2. The book gives us the technology to adapt trading as the market sees fit," he says. "It could change again in five or ten years' time because we have the platform now to do this. It is like a Model T Ford which we will keep adapting and

adding new products to." Buying and selling shares will be more transparent, and cheaper for private clients and blg investors because it lowers spreads and should make London even more competitive. If Casey pulls this off, as he seems

# Chief sails Stock Exchange into a brave, new world

dealing rooms, rather than hurled from the Stock Exchange like predecessors who fell foul of the powerful cartels and dinosaurs that prowled

Let us not forget that Casey is the fourth chief executive in less than a decade. All three of his predecessors were sacked because they had run their own personal agendas, rather than find a consensus for all the market users.

How has Casey achieved such apparent harmony? "I know it is not sexy, but consultation and more ultation is the answer," he says. That is what I have done from the beginning. I like to get on with the

job. I am a manager."

Casey sacrificed a top-flight, bonus-inflated salary package to take on his managerial role, but he had banked a tidy sum from the sale of Smith New Court to Merrill Lynch, a cushion of comfort from.

which to try something new.
"When I started, I did not have a view about whether it should be an order book or the quote-driven system," he says, "I started talking to



GAVIN CASEY, CV

Chartered accountant. Harmood Banner & Co 1970 Coopers & Lybrand 1972 County Bank 1983 Deputy chief executive, County NatWest

1989 Group finance director, Smith New Court 1996 Chief executive, London Stock Exchange

every single constituency — all the users, private investors, the corporates and the institutions to find out what they wanted. We published our views, got the feedback, and pub-

هكذامن رالإمل

There is another reason. When Casey was chosen for the job 14 months ago, the joke in the City's black-humoured dealing rooms was "Gavin Who?". Apart from this relatively small City circle, Casey has stayed invisible to the wider world. That is just how he wants it.

He has been obsessive about keeping out of the headlines, imposing a Trappist discipline on his press corps and senior executives not to talk other than about the new

This was the right strategy and has endeared him to the City's bosses, who prefer not to find their affairs solashed across the breakfast table. It is also due to his diplomacy that they, too, have not seen fit to leak their battles to the press.

Casey has been lucky, too. because most of the big battles were thrashed out before he joined. There have been compromises to reach the status quo. Market-makers have been sweetened, and they will be allowed to trade off the order book if the deal is eight times larger than the

average market size. Casey says that his Merrill Lynch Smith New Court market-making background has

had no influence on his decision.
Surprisingly, others tend to agree.
Once the system goes live, Casey
may go more public. He has other fish to fry - insider dealers who escape punishment even though his surveillance men record every share trade detail. "We are in talks with the relevant authorities to see how we can improve dealing with these people," he says.

Keeping London ahead in Europe is another challenge as Frankfurt and Paris talk more about merging. "London is the centre of gravity. Casey says. "More capital is invested here than other European centres. We do have many advantages, but we must ensure that we give the industry what it wants. That is an ongoing process."

Casey does not believe that the exchange will wither away in favour of alternative electronic dealing, say via the Internet. Nor does he believe that if the exchange did not exist. there would be no need to invent it.

"Often in life the more things change, the more they stay the same," he says, "Most people are more comfortable in a central market, with rules of engagement. Dealers want to be able to take a position to lay off risk." After all without risk, there is no capital.

MARGARETA PAGANO



Gavin Casey is transforming City share dealing

# Club Med seeks brighter image Touch of Gallic.

**Dominic Walsh** 

on moves to put

new life into the travel group

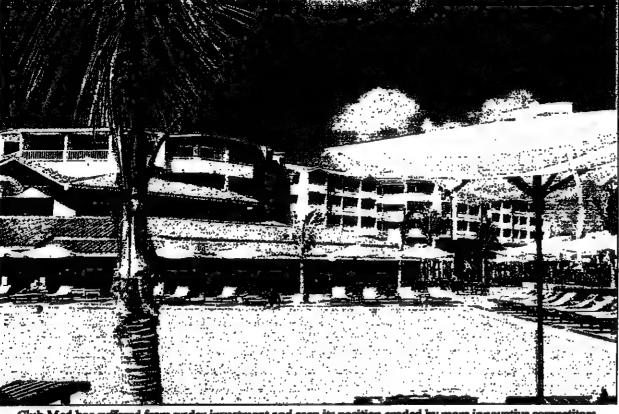
and win back a younger clientele

lub Méditerranée, pioneer of the allsex holiday, has never been far from the headlines during its 47 years. Armed robberies, staff strikes and, in 1992, the death of 30 Club Med holidaymakers in an air crash in Senegal, have sometimes contrived to disturb the company's credo "happiness is our siness". But 1997 will surely go down as this Gallic institution's annus horribilis.

In July, still reeling from big financial losses and a manage ment shake-up, Club Med was exposed in court for compiling secret records on its customers financial status, behaviour, and even their standards of hygiene.

The controversial practice had been on a Club Med holiday with a male friend returned home to find her husband had filed for divorce. In court, the man's solicitor said that his client had found out about the affair after gaining access to the holiday group's computer records.

It seems special codes were used on guest history files to alert staff to a customer's perceived peccadilloes. For example, an M against a name meant an unreliable payer, while an I



would indicate someone with a predilection for affairs and other anti-social behaviour such as drunkenness, mental instability or a criminal record.

The company's reported response was breathtaking. It idmitted it had made a mistake in allowing details of the affair to be passed to someone outside the company, but said it had no plans to stop compiling information. It added: "We need to

Some are causing problems and getting Club Med into trouble because they are behaving like naughty boys and girls."

Bourguignon, the former chair-man of EuroDisney brought in to turn round Club Med's fare. Gilbert Trigano, the veter-an co-founder of the company, and his son, Serge, who was shunted aside as chief executive in February to make way for M Bourguignon, resigned from the company's supervisory board, hinting that they might set up a

Serge Trigano argued that Club Med villages were in danger of turning into "Mickey [Mouse] Clubs". He added: "We are our club and the soul we wanted to give it has gone. It will be a different club from the past, and

place for a Trigano." M Bourguignon, however, can draw comfort from the view of one veteran executive who said yesterday that the departure of the Triganos was long overdue. "The company was due for a clean-up. The things that are happening are only what is happening with other companies. Some of these things were already in motion, but are simply being speeded up. After Philippe Bourguignon arrived we were all expecting the Triganos to move on. You can only have one captain of a ship."

Just days later, the strained

relationship between the founding Trigano family and Philippe fortunes, erupted into open war-

rival holiday group. Unable to hide his disdain by M Bourguignon's background. leaving because it is no longer it is not my club. There is no

The group's interim results, announced earlier this month, show the extent of the task that M Bourguignon faces. It reported a loss of Fr413 million after one-off charges relating mainly to restructuring costs and asset writedowns and M Bourguignon gave a warning that further provisions would be taken in the

second half of the year. In many ways, the problems of Club Med are similar to those of Butlin's, whose parent company, the Rank Group, recently unveiled plans for a EL39 million revamp. Although the two holiday operators are targeted at different markets, both have suffered from under-investment and have seen their positions eroded by more innovative and

cost-conscious competitors. As

While analysts remain sceptical of Rank's ability to bring Butlin's into the 21st century, the view is positive on the more sophisticated offering of Club Med. One analyst said: "The arrival of Bourguignon is great news for Club Med. The Club Med brand still has a tremendous amount of value, but needs a good kick up the arse. The new task of bringing the concept right up to date while retaining

with Butilin's, whose famous

Redcoats bear a passing resem-

blance to Club Med's Gentil

Organisateurs, the question

that has had to be addressed is

whether the concept is capable

of being revived, or whether it

the ethos that made it successful

has passed its sell-by date.



Philippe Bourguignon: brought in to turn round Club Med

foremost is the requirement to sort out the portfolio of 110 locations - about 20 of which are ski resorts - by closing the older ones and upgrading others. The company has said that three resorts are to be closed or sold. It is also expected to dispose of about 15 sites over the next few years. Details of the refurbishment programme and the future direction for marketing and operations will be uled next month.

A Paris-based analyst who recently holidayed at the Club Med on the Greek island of Kos said lack of consistency and a chaotic booking system were the main problems facing the company. They still have some of the older hippy-type places they started with, whereas there are many like Kos which are very smart, four-star properties," he said. But it's not cheap. For a family of four, including two children under six, the cost of two weeks in peak season came to more than £4,500 all in. It was a great holiday, and it included everything from flights to food and drink to watersports, but that's actually a lot of money. The perception that they're exand accommodation-only packages is also something they've

hat becomes more crucial if, as the company claims, it wants to win back a younger clien-tele. Last year, its 1.4 million visitors — or gentils membres as customers are referred to --had an average age of 38, but the aim is to bring that average down as it attempts to hit a

To achieve those goals, it has adopted a more aggressive marketing strategy and its recent advertising campaigns have moved away from the "happiness" approach to slogans such

as "start living". The French financial community clearly has confidence in M Bourguignon, Since the announcement of his appointment the share price on the Paris Bourse has risen from a low of Fr311 to a high earlier this month of just over Fr500. Then in April, Exor, the French investment vehicle controlled by Italy's Agnelli family, raised its stake to 19 per cent.

The company has come a long way since 1950 when, in the company's own words, Club Med members "spent their days frolicking in the Mediterranean sea and their nights sleeping under army surplus tents supplied by the Trigano family Shareholders are hoping that

M Bourguignon can complete its transformation. If he cannot, Club Med's 47-year history of independence may yet be cut

# flair to nourish language of fun

Alasdair Murray rumbas to Cuba's lively rendition of a Mediterranean-style resort

The image has

been blurred.

We need to

rediscover an

older and

simpler style

Philippe Bourguignon is in hand — playing France's determined to prove most civilised sport. that Club Med is still M Bourguignon believes fun. As the Cuban carnival procession winds its way around the resort's swimming pool, he is first out of his chair to dance salsa. The next evening, Club Med's new chief executive pops up in a disco show worthy of Andrew Lloyd Webber, sporting a mammoth quiff and drainpipe jeans. He participates in every event with the enthusiasm of a young GO — Club Med's very French version of a Butlin's Redcoat

M Bourguignon is able to pull off the performance. His towers over him on the dance floor — lends him a natural air of comedy. His disarming honesty and genuinely inforing more serious business have ensured his popularity among both his staff and the which can use the same distri-

ity. By the end of the weekend trip to celebrate Club Med's new opening in Cubs. even the embitmost tered member of the Eurocorps is at least feigning enjoy-

ment

The Varadero resort, situated on Cuba's north coast, is the first to open under, M Bourguignon's leadership and the company's first foray Into Cuba. The site has all the trappings that holidaymakers have come to expect of Club Med - spotless white sandy beach, pristine swimming pool, endiess food and drink The company has invested heavily in the rooms and other facilities to establish the resort as a model for the future and to escape the

perception of Club Med as old-fashioned and spartan. The vast rooms are decked out in primary colours and comfy modern furniture. The sports facilities are state-of-the-art, with the company in the process of constructing one of Cuba's few golf courses near by. Best of all is the petanque pitch, set among a glade of tropical trees, where visitors can while away the hours until dinner - Mojito

M Bourguignon believes that these ingredients are essential to re-establishing Club Med's appeal. "Club Med has the potential to become the first real brand in the holiday business," he explains. "But the image had become blurred. It is like an old house where you need to strip away the top cover of paint to rediscover an older and simpler style." He argues that the company has spread itself too thinly across its 100plus sites. Three clubs have been sold and M Bourguignon has been quick to pull out of non-core activities such as

its Pacific cruise business. This is not to imply a period of retrenchment. But expansion will be concentrated on can either upgrade facilities or build a second resort near by,

> bution channels. He is also keen to tackie the thorny issue of guage. France and other Frenchspeaking countries will remain the company's core market

performance in the "strategic" Englishspeaking markets, especially the US, is vital to the longterm future. M Bourguignon is also keen to look for joint ventures and alliances to improve penetration in these markeus.

"In the headquarters not enough people speak English," he says. "It creates inhibition." But while imposing a dual-language requirement at the Paris HQ is relatively straightforward. sorting out language prob-lems on the ground is less easy. In a rare stumble, M Bourguignon begins by sug-gesting that all resorts should work in English and French before correcting himself to add that there would still have to be room for German and Italian. But he is prepared to admit, three months into his new job, that he does not have all the answers yet. "We need to keep working on clarifying and developing the image."

# aidine Thatcher flies into a rage at **BA logos**

British and proud of it.

virgin atlantic

# No red letters

Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland and outgoing chairman of Channel 4, might be heading for a rapprochement with new Labour. The Government made it clear that a second five-year term at Channel 4 was not going to happen. Sir Michael lined up with opponents of new Labour in round-robins to the newspapers before the election, and the John Major campaign bus was in fact a British Midland jet. Normal commercial rates were paid of course, but it left his foot firmly planted in the Tory camp. So Bishop was rather pleased to be

for a new chairman of the Post Office.

They kindly explained that Sir Mi-

chael's unfortunate political beliefs

greatly flattered, Sir Michael has had to decide that with the fast-expanding

• XAAR? An arresting name, "I am Princess Xaar, of the planet Tharg," perhaps? No. it is the latest computer company to come to the stock market. Braced for an incomprehensible stream of computerese, I inquire cautiously where the name comes from. It was chosen, says Graham Wylie, approached by headhunters looking chief executive but no relation to the Graham Wylie from computer group Sage, alas, because that combination of letters is easily pronounceable by the Japanese. Plus, "Americans seem to think anything with an X in

British Midland's first Airbuses on the way, he could not really also run the Post Office, complete with possible privatisations. Alas, we will now never know whether Tony Blair really is flexible enough to give a top job to such an implacable opponent.

names. though; remember what hap-pened to Toad.

THE

Spokes-man RICHARD FARRANT'S appoint-

new City mega-regulator whose name I dare not speak means he will definitely be off to Canary Wharf with the rest. Farrant, who was chief executive of the Securities and Futures Authority, is a high-flyer who was never going to accept a subordinate position with the new body. He will, if anything, be even leaner and, fitter once he is installed down river-Farrant lives near Maidenhead and arrives at Paddington every

morning clutching a fold-up bicycle which he rides all the way to the SFA on the south bank of the Thames. (He sometimes beats a colleague who makes the same journey by Tube.) Canary Wharf will add a couple more miles to his journey - providing he can work out the route. I am told he tried a test run the other day and got lost.

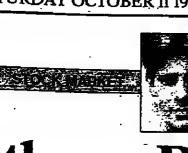
● AS BRENT WALKER sinks into the west. I bring you the wit and wisdom of George Walker, now planning to float his Russian satellite racing service in 18 months - but not

in London, it seems, where it might not be properly appreciated. Asked for his most admired contemporaries, he said: "I had a great respect for Jimmy Goldsmith and a tremendous regard for Tiny Rowland — honour-able, straightforward, super guys."

#### What's up, Doc?

ERLING REFSUM, the City's biggest fan of the biotechnology sector. has abandoned Yamaichi to rejoin Nomura, where he wil be allowed to get his hands dirty with floating new companies, private placings and so on. The former surgeon was introduced to the City by Arnab Banerji, duced to the City by Arnab Banerii, now running Foreign & Colonial Emerging Markets. It has been a bad year for bottech—and for some of Dr Refsum's tips in his "New beasts in the jungle" review of the sector. But he was the first to spot Shield Diagnostics. He started tipping them at around 50p—they are now at 732/155.

around 50p - they are now at 732 as MARTIN WALLE



# Northern Rock climbs on GUS

AFTER less than two weeks in the market, Northern Rock found itself at the centre of takeover speculation yesterday after a string of dealing room rumours helped its shares to break through the 500p level.

Its strength in mortgage lending prompted traders to suggest that Great Universal Stores, up 512p at 709p, was planning to augment its sub-stantial car loan division by making a paper bid for the former building society.

Lord Wolfson

Sunningdale, GUS chairman, categorically denied that the company has any intention of cuying Northern Rock, al-hough his company made no

inficial statement.
Northern Rock ended the lay 16<sup>1</sup> ap stronger at 498p, ifting the value of windfalls and by its remaining 450,000 hareholders by 3.4 per cent.

A steady flow of takeover peculation lightened up an therwise quiet trading day.

iving leverage to the swathe merge after Friday lunchmes in the City.
As always, WH Smith was en as a favourite target, with ne shares 5p better at 390p. ohn Hancock, head of its merican division, had to eny morning speculation int he was personally plan-ing a £100 million manageent buyout and had already

> The rumours reinforced spicion that the takeover proach by Tim Waterstone, it together last month, had rved to test the water for her would-be predators. Lloyds TSB ended the day ap dearer at 791p after its aff were said to be talking out making a sizeable over-

on support of venture

Abbey National was the ond best performer on the SE 100, gaining 34p to 112p after James Capel is-ad a buy note. The bank has I to escape speculation that s included on the acquisi-1 list drawn up by a nber of larger rivals.

righest climber in the FTSE , gaining 812p to 22912p on ther approval of Ed Wallis. irman of PowerGen, as its tedland, the building supis company, found its

res 1712p dearer at 25712p er talk that either a manment shake-up or a take-



chief executive of Close Brothers, after William Hill sale

over bid are imminent. The position of Robert Napier, its embattled chief executive, was said to be in question.

The strong recovery of Logica shares cooled slightly, as they softened 212p to 92712p. However, rumours that the computer services firm is close to completing a £4 million acquisition gained strength, with many dealers

One of the stock market's longest suspensions may be coming towards an end after Costain yesterday finally managed to publish details of a long-awaited rescue package. The shares were suspended last November at 45p — any bid that emerges from new shareholder Skanska would have to be at least 50p.

make a formal announcement early next week.

VideoLogic gained 9 per cent to 6012p, on speculation that it will be announcing a substantial deal to supply its television equipment with its interim results next month.

British Land shares were the poorest FTSE 100 performers after falling 2112p to 68612p when its directors cashed in share options. The shares

expecting the company to to as low as 30p in the past 12 months, and held at 42p yesterday. The US-based Thermo Power Corporation is valuing the company at £98 million in cash.

have jumped by 22 per cent

since August. Traders feared

John Ritblat, its chairman,

was calling the top of the

One deal the City's rumour machine missed out on was

the 80p a share offer for Peek,

the electronic equipment pro-

ducer, which came after the

market closed. The company's

shares have fallen from 107p

Remaining shares of the once-mighty Breat Walker lost the 0.07p remaining value they had after its board secured the release of William Hill, the last remnant of George\_Walker's 1980 creation. They are now worth

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	nothing, and stand in the market at Op, but must remain	Brussels General
	listed until a formal clearance is arranged at the end of this	Paris: CAC-40
	month, after which the com- pany will be liquidated. Shares of Vocalis leapt from	Zurich: SKA Gen
	their low of 5712p to 6912p as the speech recognition firm	London:
	announced a £3 million deal to supply its technology to	FTSE 100 FTSE 250 FTSE 350
	Ericsson.	FINE Euron
	Britton held firm at 17612p as Caraustar, its potential	PISE Non T
	suitor, stayed quiet over the	FTSE Govi S
	prospect of a formal bid. Its	Bargains SEAQ Volum
	approach has jolted Britton shares, tipped in last Satur-	US\$
	day's Tampus solves in The	German Ma

John Leach, left, of Brent Walker, and John Llewellyn-Lloyd,

Times to become the strongest performers of any UK equity this week.

Jardine International finally agreed a £53.3 million offer for Appleyard, the car dealer, hose shares jumped 1212p to 7812. Expectations of more consolidation in the sector helped Dagenham Motors lp ahead to 11312p and Evans Halshaw 612p better at

77¹2p. IMI, which bought a major valve company two days ago, continued to race further away from its 285p low in July on further reflection on the deal. Nottingham Forest failed to impress at its debut on the

Alternative Investment Market, opening at a 10p discount its offer price of 70p. Traders at Winterflood Securities were unsurprised by the flop, saying that football stocks had fallen out of favour.

Shares in Ramco Energy, the oil exploration company. bottomed out after an independent revaluation of the firm wiped some £64 million from its market value in the past two weeks. They have fallen from EII and yesterday firmed by I5p to 850p. ☐ GILT-EDGED: Higher

than expected factory gate prices from the US provided the only relief from an otherwise quiet day in the futures pit. The data did nothing to challenge the widely held view that UK interest rates will rise by a quarter-point next month. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 eased £116, closing at £103. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 moved up £116 to £11514. □ NEW YORK: Blue chips were weaker but off early lows as the market calmed down after a sharp sell-off sparked by a surprisingly big rise in September US wholesale prices. By midday the Dow

Jones industrial average was

down 18.91 points at 8,042.51.

MAJOR INDICES
New York (midday):  Dow Jones
Tokyo: Nikkei Average
Hong Kong:
Amiterdam: EOE Index

- حكذ لمن ريامل

5227.3 (+0.5) 4874.3 (+0.7) 25(4.1 (+4.7) ack 100 2582.57 (+25.80) ... 1.6205 (-0.0063 2.8365 H-0.0075

#### RECENT ISSUES

Bucklind Inv Wits Buckland Invernate 175 Calmgorm Demti IT 441 Caimgrm Demtl Wr. 175 Cambury Inv Wris Cambury Invesments 21: Computerland UK 1404: Creative Publishing 158': I S Solutions

Latchways (155) 1745 NSB Retail Sys 1525 + 165 Northern Rock Nottinghm Frst (70) SHL Group

#### RIGHTS ISSUES

Consid Coal n/p (5) 14 Premier Asset n/p (13) 14

# MAJOR CHANGES Assoc Br Ports ....... 301p (+14p) Biocomps Intt ....... 515p (+2214p)

Northern Rock	488p (+161:p)
JJB Sports	500p (+15p)
MMT Comp	560p (+131ap)
Smiths inda	956'ap (+22p)
Mi	439'4p (+10p)
Mayer int	432p (+9°ap)
GRE	325p (+7p)
Stand Charl	. 834p (+17p)
Haliax	742p (+14'ap)
Affiance & Leic	
Premier Femel	551p (+10'zp)
Ramco Egy	. 850p (+15p)

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Closing Prices Page 26 LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

# Power of gold

**TEMPUS** 

BRIAN GILBERTSON is clearly a man with a mission and that mission seems to be the transformation of South Africa's antique mining industry into a modern business. The deal struck yesterday with Gold Fields will have the important effect of creating a South African gold powerhouse: a company generating 4 million ounces, similar in size to Newmont and Barrick. More important, it will be run by its own management and will have the opportunity to cut costs dramatically in this

lacklustre industry.
When Gilbertson demerged the Billiton nonprecious metals arm of Gencor via a London stock exchange flotation, mining analysts complained that the remaining Gencor was left as a rump, a captive South African investment, exposed to the depreciating Rand and an equally depreciating gold price. Billiton acquired access to foreign capital markets but lacked the glitter of precious metals.

Recently, however, expectations of the aluminium price have soared and the gold price has fallen to \$325 per ounce. Many of Gencor's mines are probably operating at a cash cost well above the price of the metal.

The logic to combine Gencor's proactive management with the profitable assets of Gold Fields including the Driefontein mine, which could have a cash cost of near \$200 per ounce. South Africa's mining industry is highly labour intensive, a weakness which was acceptable when wage rates were low and the weak rand and a high gold price flattered margins. The presence of Nail, the Black South African empowerment company, could be critical to a reduction in manning levels and a surge in profitability.

#### RM

WHEN you supply half of the primary schools and a third of the secondaries in the country with computer equipment, you are in an enviable position. Not least when the Government has earmarked another El billion of capital investment in the nation's classrooms.

Launched on the stock

market at 175p in December 1994, RM has been a spectaeular investment and the recent fuss over the Prime Minister's discussions with Bill Gates of Microsoft and plans to bring the Internet into every school have sent RM's share price bubbling up to yesterday's close of 900p. Currently less than 1 per cent of the schools' budget is spent on IT, enough to generate annual sales in excess of £100 mil-

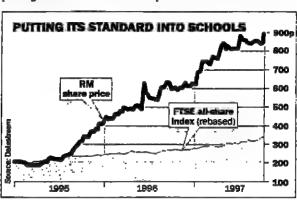
lion for RM. If just 5 per cent

The question is why RM has such leverage in the classroom and the reason appears to be that, instead of trying to sell overpowered and oversophisticated equipment at schools, it redesigns existing software into simple packages that can used as

of the new money trickled

into RM, it would have a dramatic effect on its profits.

teaching aids for reading and arithmetic. RM's position looks secure but the shares are discounting aggressive forecasts of future profit. Currently, RM is valued at some 28 times earnings. That could fall to just 23 times next year but any delay in public spending could be a bit of a blow for the share



#### Appleyard

WHY does Jardine want to plough £53 million into an industry where all the major players are getting cold feet? The only logical reason for any company to consider expanding its interests in car dealership chains would be to cash in on the current boom in car sales. But to do so, especially through Appleyard, is perhaps

tor retail business in that it has several unco-ordinated layers of management, painfully low margins, and is making a thumping £5.1 million loss. It has also made a series of unwise acquisitons and is still recovering from an embarrassing fraud case. Because of these factors,

Appleyard is a classic mo-

Appleyard has found it impossible to meet the current high demands of car manufacturers, causing it to lose valuable franchises. Jardine undoubtedly has the expertise and resources in the

motor retail industry to tackle Appleyard's problems over the next couple of years. But by the time the ranks of management have been carefully weeded and more franchises have been won, will car sales still be buoyant?

The geezer in the flat cap trying to sell you a second hand Ford Escort would undoubedly say yes. Wiser sources may suggest that 80p per share is only cheap when everyone wants to buy a new

#### Costain

FOR a minor construction group with £300 million of turnover. Costain has attracted a lot of investment interest. Malaysian, Kuwaiti. Saudi and now Swedish giants of the building trade have all dabbled in Costain but to little gain, subscribing for shares in rescue cash calls which have only led to more

Yesterday's open offer should leave Costain debt-

Oct W Det 9 |

free but with a boardroom that looks a bit like the General Assembly of the United Nations. It can only be hoped that Costain board meetings are less acrimonious and more constructive. Skanska is making a small

investment, some £8 million. to help Costain back into health but the Swedes are getting options which can be exercised at the open offer price during the next three years and which will give Skanska 40 per cent of the company. That will trigger a

Whys should Skanska wait? The company could bid today but the probably reason is that none of the other shareholders will agree to sell at this price, leaving the question as to who will really be in control in the board-

Ordinary shareholders will diluted to almost nil and are unlikely to want to buy

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

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# THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY OCTOBER II 1997

#### NEWS

#### Libraries to put granny on the Net

D Every public library in Britain should provide access to the Internet, according to the ground-breaking report which recommends a vast upgrade of lending libraries.

Tony Blair has asked Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, to draw up proposals by the end of the year based on a study by the Library and Information Commission .... ...Page l

#### Judge acquits officers of rape

Six young Army officers accused of gang-raping a student were acquitted on the orders of a judge but their reputations and careers are in tatters. Judge Julian Hall halted the trial after ten days, deciding that the woman's account of her alleged ordeal was riddled with "inconsistencies". .. Pages 1, 3

#### **Defiant Clinton**

ca's policy....

President Clinton, criticised by the new Nobel peace laureate for failing to sign up to a global ban on landmines, refused to alter Ameri-

#### Hague EMU apology William Hague gave an unre-

served apology for the mistake of entering the European exchangerate mechanism......Pages 1, 12-14 New gay right

relationships with British citizens have been given the right to settle in the United Kingdom ..... Page 2 Son held gun

Foreign nationals in homosexual

#### A farm worker who held a shot-

gun to his crippled mother's head while she pulled the trigger walked free from court ..... Page 7

#### Haughey sells up

Charles Haughey, the disgraced former Irish Prime Minister, is selling his island to pay tax and

#### England's players can lose and win

The underdogs of Latvia could today guarantee England's footbailers a World Cup bonus of £200,000 each. Under the byzantine play-off system, if Latvia defeat Scotland, England would qualify for the World Cup finals even if they lose in Rome. The players will then be in line for hefty bonuses ..... Pages 1, 5

Dazzling Queen The Oueen dazzled Pakistan this week with her jewels, some of which she rarely wears ..... Page 9

#### Nightclub crisis Manchester's clubland, once the

capital of Britain's youth culture. launched a fightback against violence that reached a bloody climax with two murders...... Page 10

#### **Evangelist row**

Bill McCartney, head of the fastest-growing evangelical movement in America, was at the centre of controversy over his past as a football coach.

#### Flying high

Half a century after making supersonic history in a lethal rocket plane, General Chuck Yeager is at

#### Hussein anger

King Hussein has ordered the expulsion of the entire intelligence mission from the Israeli Embassy ..... Page 8 in Amman...

#### British films: When Wilde. car, opens it will become the

**Weather by Fax** 

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Hull (Albert D)

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id used our reports from a menu of 195 ters 0336 416 199

HOURS OF DARKNESS

#### NEWS FEATURES

Valeria Grove: The model of a modern Queen of Jordan can boast a woman whose success in a royal role might have been a blueprint for another Princess ...... Page 21

Under suspicion: If you wear a baseball cap, drive an old banger or walk down the wrong street in one of Bristol's affluent suburbs, you might as put on a jumper marked "burglar" .... Page 19

starring Stephen Fry as Osmost heavily subsidised British film ever released Page 20

Change and the Tories: The Tory party's most necessary transformation is the need to come to terms with the social and cultural changes that their own economic reforms .....Page 23 unleashed.

Blood on the parquet: One reason that it took so long for the political and financial scandals of the Mitterrand years to emerge is France's strong culture of respect for ... Page 23 the State...

#### LETTERS

Lords Tebbit and Habgood mings, cartoonist......Page 25 on society.

#### TUSINESS ... COLUMERS

John Lloyd: I have watched at close quarters the struggle for a certain kind of Europe that has been unfolding in Rome: one which seeks a decisive break with the Italian postwar tradition of corporatist accommodation ... Page 22 Magnus Linkleter: Chairing the Arts Council of England is hugely demanding, not just in time but in sheer concen-

#### OBITUARIES. J. G. Links, Venice and Canaletto scholar; Michael Cum-

tration of effort ......... Page 22

9.5 to 5,227.3. The pound fell 100.2 to 100.1, falling .63 cents to \$1.6205 but rising .75 pfennigs to DM2.8365 .... Page 30

GoldCo ...

. Pages 33-36

David Beckham and Garbled construction group eth Southgate caused Engwhose shares were suspended a year ago, proposed a land most concern during financial rescue that could preparations for the World Cup qualifying yield control to Skanska, the Swedish company .... Page 27

Rugby: Jeremy Guscott re-Gold deal: South African flects on his frustrating mining giants Gencor and start to the season Page 41 Goldfields have merged to form the world's largest gold Motor racing: The unique producer, to be known as skills of Michael Schu-...Page 27 macher make him the true world champion . Page 40 Markets: The FTSE 100 rose Tennis: Rusedski and Herman will meet in the semi-final of the CA Tro-

phy in Vienna ..... Page 38

Poetry: Murray Lachlan Young ... Supergrass with Caitlin Pages 6-8 Moran ...

SECTIONS

Deerhunters: They are fighting on Page 16

Divine light: Wondering at

Mother Meera ..... Page 27

The adoption fair:Page 34

Fashion: ......Page 43

#### WEEKEND

ing her garden ...... Page I Women and affairs Page 2

#### The very best of

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10 15

For younger readers of

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point

PROPERT VERS

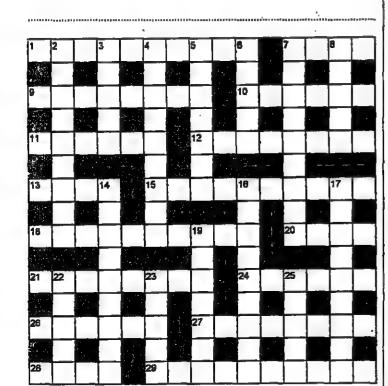
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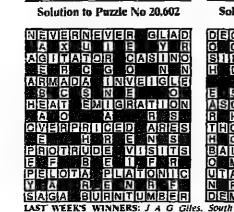
#### THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,608

A \$20 look token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition. PO Box 486. Virginia Street, Lundon El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be nublished next Saturday.



#### **ACROSS**

- I Fleroine, desolate, having difficulty on Exmoor at first (5,5). 7 Egyptian in need of firm physical
- 9 Discharge dunderhead from the Blues (S). 10 Drift one mile to harbour (6).
- 11 Contrive to edge into church after start of service (6). 12 Playing member of The Drones
- club? (8). 13 Quote a lot verbally (4). 15 Ritual braves once organised (10). 18 Numbers lacking an initiation in
- the principles of art (10). 20 Messenger dropping off nothing - it's a sin (4).
- 21 Doctor put girls on dark treacle
- 24 litentifies sources of records (6). 26 One doing badly as a blue (6). 27 Arrogant cur l caught pinching
- rug (S). 28 Amounced top dog (4).
- 29 Arrives before anyone else for Scottish celebration (5-5). Solution to Puzzle No 20,602



#### DOWN

- 2 Fair goal (9).
- 3 Picnic here, grabbing such a comfortable place (5).
- 4 Return to base by car and push right in (5.4). 5 Collected works vehicle (7).
- 6 Watching hunting without initial publicity (5). 7 Skipper with large vessel that's outside entrance (9).
- 8 Indian detailed to analyse senlences (5). 14 Extension for drawers (5,4).
- 16 It is hardly brilliant to chest over crossword answer (9).
- 17 Urbane tip to get money annually for royalties (5.4). 19 Fashionable drink, it's said, for
- one in the know (7). 22 University at one time without a lightweight (5).
- 23 Scorn food (5). 25 Villain's excellent (5).
  - Solution to Puzzle No 20,607

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: J A G Glies. South Woodford, London: R J Hunt. Warlingham, Surrey. M Kennedy, Seafond, Sussex: G & M Mortimer, New Milton. Hampinite: M Lawrence, Burton on Trent.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING PITMES WESSPAPERS HMITED, 1997 Published and printed and itemsed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd. PO Box 4495, Virginia Street, Lendon E.D. N. telephone Of 17-82 5000 and elso printed at Ritting Road, Prescot, Merceyides, L34 9481 relephone 0151-840 2000 Saturday October 11 1997, Registered as a newspaper at the Post office. ecord half or 1996

35

HIGHEST & LOWEST

#### AA INFORMATION 0336 40[ 410 9334 491 746 9334 491 747

0224 411210

Sun sets. 6 16 pm

General: rain in SW England at start of day will guickly sweep E to affect much of England and Wales by evening, Rain will turn heavy in many parts before easing later. Most of N England, Scotland and N treiand will rijse the rain and see surry periods.

Tonight will be cool everywhere, The rain will linger in south-east for a time and W England and Wales will have a few showers. Rest of UK will be mainly the will be cooled to the will be considered.

dry with long clear spells. London, SE England, Cent S England, Channel leles: dry start, but x 15-17C (<del>59-6</del>3 E England: widespread rain before alternoon. Brisk NW wind. Max 15-17C (56-63F). I'W Middlande, SW England, Wales: rain for much of day, but becoming more showery by evening. Light, variable wind rising to strong SW. Max 4.167,67.818.

# at first, but most places will see rain later. Moderate N wind. Max 13-15C

nd: cool and breezy

Moderate to fresh N wind, Max 11-140 heavy rain, becoming clearer, Wind variable, becoming tresh N. Rather cold. Max 13C (55F).

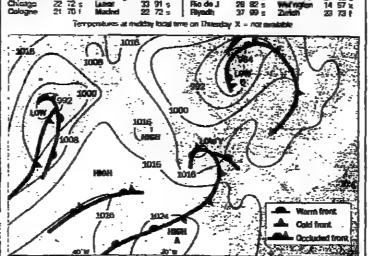
☐ Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, N Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cool and windy with sunshine and showers. Strong N wind. Max 10-12C (50-54F).

# Outlook: chilly with brisk N wind bringing sunshine and showers.

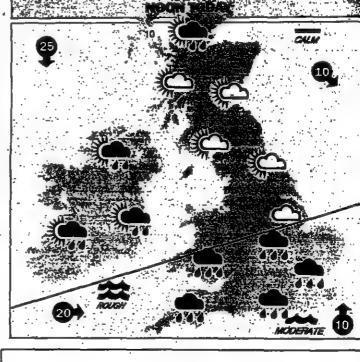
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY hes in 50 0.11 7.0 0.50 0.11 7.0 0.56 8.2 0.25 7.3 0.16 1.8 0.31 1.5 0.46 7.4 0.74 1.6 0.31 1.5 0.33

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Changes to the chart above from noon high A will remain stour-moving with little change in



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**RARING TO GO** 

> Guscott on the Lions and after PAGE 41

WHY I LIKE ITALY Danny Baker

PAGE 37





WEEKEND **MONEY** 

Bond funds: are they the high flyers? **PAGES 51-64** 





Lord Montagu: how we survived the Himalayas **PAGES 45-49** 

# SATURDAY SPORT

OCTOBER II 1997

WORLD CUP CAMPAIGN B

# England ready to make their point

FROM OLIVER HOLT TRALL CORRESPONDENT IN ROME

NN HODDLE and his Engsquad left the seclusion of rural retreat yesterday afterand entered the Eternal City ne first time. By the banks of Tiber, they gazed on the idour of the Olympic Stadium stared at the great oval of y blue seats that tonight will rammed full of shouting, ulating, baying hordes will-neir downfall with all that they

more than an hour they

Italy for a place in the World finals. They trained as if their depended on it, tackling so in a practice game that they to be told to ease off, yelling tragement as teams of four or an sprint races against each By the end, the hair of every f them was soaked in sweat. ey all know that this is the big the match that has obsessed since they lost to Italy at bley in February, the game has been hanging over them he way along the qualifying the one that has been waiting em at the end of the journey, d either as prize

e air of serenity that has cterised so much of their up has begun to disappear as the nerves and the adrenairt to course through them. A or a win, and they can start uring for France next summer another great surge of optiand excitement about the sh game. A defeat, and they probably be consigned to the ctory of a two-legged play-off

hment.

another group runner-up, on ner 29 and November 15. ere was an alarm five minutes the end of the session yesterthen David Beckham was led te pitch by the team doctor. laining of breathing difficulhat, presumably, had been tht about by the heavy cold which he has been suffering week. If he is not passed fit, Neville, his Manchester Uniearn-mate, may deputise for it right wing-back.

dso seems increasingly likely Gareth Southgate, who has a injury, will not be able to ete with Gary Neville for the position in what will probably back three, alongside Tony is and Sol Campbell. igate's main contribution in ng was to collect balls from d one of the goals.

Despite those scares, though, the day was dominated by the surprise that Hoddle sprung with his choice of captain. Tony Adams had been widely expected to be given the honour on his 31st birthday, but, instead the England Coach turned. instead, the England coach turned to Paul Ince, the Liverpool captain who played in Italy with Internazionale for the past two

The move is bound to be seen in some quarters as a slap in the face for Adams, as well as recognition for Ince's outstanding form both in Italy and since his move to Merseyside, but Hoddle insisted that the reasons were pragmatic, rooted in Arsenal centre half is only just returning.

The reason I have gone for Paul Ince is that I think he is made for this game," Hoddle said. "He is coming back to Italy, where he has got a lot of respect. The image I

#### EXPERT VIEW

OLIVEN HOLT: Raly 1 England 1 ROB NUCHEER Raly 2 England 0 LYNNE TRUSS: Raly 1 England 1 BRIAN GLANYELLE: Raly 1 England 1 STEVE MONAMAMAN: England to

have of what the game will be like means that he is tailor-made for it. Tony Adams is still on his way back and if he is to start the game I want him 100 per cent focused on his performance. To give him the responsibility of the captaincy might have hindered his chances of doing that. I had a short conversation about it with him and he

understood. He will be captain of

the back line, anyway.

"I am just taking a weight off his shoulders that he does not need for tomorrow's game. If you are a good captain, you take that sort of thing on the chin anyway. I have got every confidence in Paul leading the team out. He is at the hub of the team and everyone in it respects

Hoddle and his squad have managed to remain confident about their chances of securing the point that they need, despite the wealth of statistics that boost Italy's cause. The last time that England beat tonight's opponents on Italian soil was 36 years ago — in Rome. More to the point, perhaps, is that Italy have won all 15 of the World Cup qualifying games that they have played in their capital.

The match may hinge on a moment of magic from Paul Gascoigne or one from Gianfranco



Gascoigne is put through his paces at the Olympic Stadium under Hoddle's watchful eye. Photograph: Paul Hannah

Zola; an opportunist strike from Ian Wright or Christian Vieri; or on how the teams react to the atmosphere. Italy will either be inspired or crushed by the weight of expectation, England may freeze amid the hostility.

Hoddle, though, claimed that he would know when his team walked out of the changing rooms whether they would get the result they needed. If everyone has 100 per cent belief that we will do the job, then that is it," he said. "I sensed Poland in May. I don't know what it is, biorhythms or something. It is

#### INCE'S GOVERNING ROLE, Page 35

like trying to get a horse into peak condition. If you do not have that inner belief, you will not achieve

what you want. "We are going to have to defend at the right time, there is no doubt about that, but there is a little extra pressure on them [Italy] with the fact that they have got to win. Even if they are winning 1-0, we could score in the 89th minute and it would still be us who went

We have got a great record

away from home. We have won all our qualifying matches in the group away. We have been to a lot of difficult places, but this is one step further." If England can take that step by the banks of the Tiber

tonight, it will be truly a giant ICAP.

ENGLAND (probable: 3-5-2): D Seaman (Arsenal) — G Neville (Manchester United), A Adams (Arsenal), S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur) — D Bedcham (Manchester United), P Gascolgne (Rangers), P Ince (Urerpool), D Batty (Newcastle United), G Le Saux (Challant), I amendment (Manchester United), I

ITALY (probable, 4-1-2): A Peruzzi (Juventus)
— F Cannevaro (Parma), A Costacurta (AC Milan), A Nesta (Lazot), F Maldini (AC Milan)
— A Lombardo (Crystal Palace), D Alberthii (AC Milan), D Baggin (Parma), A di Livio (Juventus) — G Zola (Chelsea), C Vieni

Referee: M van der Ende (Hottand).
TELEVISION: Today: Television: Sky Sports.
2: Live coverage, from 6pm. ITV: 10 Opmindingth Eurosport: Highlights, including all the day's qualifying garries and Canada v Mexico (five), from 7pm.

RADIO: BBC Radio 5 Live: Live coverage from 7.30pm Talk Radio: Live coverage, from

### **Groins** add to the strain

used to think it rather quaint when my friend Robert phoned Sheffield Wednesday anxious about the health of David Hirst. It seemed overly assiduous and I said so. "Look, David Thing doesn't care how you are, Robert,"
I'd say, "When you had that
terrible cold last month, did he
ring?" But Robert would persist anyway and come off the phone looking glum. "David's thigh/groin/ankle is no better at all." he'd report, and thereafter could not be consoled.

Nowadays, this strangely inti-mate concern for the wellbeing of footballers is one I completely understand, though I tend to react rather more impatiently at a bad prognosis. "ill?" I scoff. "Injured? Nonsense. He's being paid to play, isn't he? Look, what's the story here?" I can't tell you how cross I was with Alan Shearer's groin last season; if I were to meet his famous ankle, I fear I would tell it

to pull its socks up.

Now David Beckham's got the flu and has "broken down" in training and I'm all strung out with annoyance, waiting for each

infected nasal droplet of news from Rome. "Paul Scholes could replace für victim David Beckham on Saturday," my football pager informed me on Thursday morning. "That word 'victim' is a bit strong." my companion commented (rea-sonably). "No it isn't," I snapped. "Don't you understand? This is terrible." David Beckham mugged by a virus! A bad day for England (though not, of course, for the estimable Paul Scholes).

ould Beckham recover?
And what about Gareth Southgate's thigh? I started to get hysterical. How much of this stupid illness stuff do they think we can take? Perhaps it's a pack of lies, but how can you tell? If only they had a phone number for fans to call — a sniffles hotline, a thigh strain freephone. an England casualty update.

I wish I could say all this was unselfish concern, but it just isn't. Personally, I've had a miserable cold - a honking cough combined with the mysterious sensation that I've swallowed paint-stripper while being punched on the nose. But do I feel real empathy with Beckham? No. I just very selfishly want him to be fit and bouncy for tonight, because he's brilliant and I demand to see him play.

I formerly thought the word doubtful" was rather funny in prematch build-ups. If someone was doubtful for England, I'd imagine them poring over a map of the country, shaking their heads as if to say "I don't know about this." Now, I just study the pictures of Beckham and get all doubtful myself. "He looks all right, doesn't he? It's just a little sniff, isn't it? He's got to be all right tonight."

for them hath the LORD chosen to carry

Chronicles 15:2



Luke 4:8

# Seaman keeps calm in pursuit of safe passage

nly the white mar-ble statues that dec-orate the Olympic Stadium can afford to remain calm and cold as the atmosphere builds up among 83,000 impassioned spectators for tonight's decisive game. You are either Italian or English; you feel the blood rushing, you sense, or try to. the emotions running through players such as David Seaman and Gianfranco Zofa.

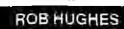
They, equal in experience with 34 caps apiece, could at a stroke, a shot or a save, determine the outcome not only of a single football match, but also of the immediate destiny of two countries which, whatever indifference anyone may feign, really care about the game and hold it close to their identity. Nationalism can get in the

way. It can make seasoned players malfunction. It can channel their energy in a pulsating rush that they never before experienced: it can make heroes or villains of them in an instant. "Experto credite."

Roman poet Virgil wrote more than a thousand of years before anyone kicked the ball for spectator sport. "Trust one who has proved it."

If I were Cesare Maldini or Glenn Hoddle, I know that Seaman and Zola would be the first to carry my trust, the first on the team-sheet. "We just have to focus that much more," Seaman said yesterday. "I know what is building up, I know that, if I don't concede a goal, that is it — England qualify. Hopefully, I will keep a clean sheet, but it's all about the result, whether it's 0-0 or 4-4.

Yet this man, so laid back he can seem almost horizontal, so practised and so thorough, has not yet seen the lights of Rome.





takes heart from the England goalkeeper

a world of difference between a stadium in daylight and a alkeeper stretching to catch with what Seaman described as "players jostling, like man-to-man wrestling" in front of him when unfamiliar floodlights glare,

His worries may be eased, for all the splendour beneath the white circular roof around the Olympic Stadium, there is even light, apparently a goal-keeper's dream. Zola, however, can put out those lights, manikin though he is.

'Zola? He poses quite a few questions, from free kicks, from anywhere," Seaman observed. "He has such tiny feet, and he can do a lot of things." Not in the Chelsea blue but

the blue of an enemy that unites Englishmen, Zola did it to devastating effect in February when, pouncing on an error of judgment by Stuart Pearce, he invaded the space behind him and, arrowlike in his accuracy, scored.

The goalkeeper was not Seaman; it was Ian Walker, his deputy. "I was listening to it on my car in a traffic jam on the M25," Seaman recalled, "I was on my way home from



Seaman can ensure that England qualify tonight

# Maldini offers spirit of adventure

Brian Glanville on

for the home side, both defensively

and if allowed to roam forward

could Maldini be sold.

for them as did his father.

life, far away from the torrid

field of battle, suits him well.

WHEREAS his father was

essentially a solid, combative

centre back or sweeper, Paolo

has always been an exciting element, a left back of the

modern idiom, eager to at-

tack, to overlap, to take on opponents and to strike for

goal, with a formidable left foot. All this and a tackler.

even have worked against

him. At 22, during the 1990

World Cup finals in Italy, he

found himself switched from

the flank to centre back,

where Italy were often to use

him in the future. There, he

played effectively and force-fully but could seldom gratify

This season, with Milan,

there has been a still more

unexpected translocation.

Milan, with far more money

than sense, poured forth their

treasure in the summer to

buy up a host of foreign

his arge to go forward.

a cartilage problem. I felt for lan. I could feel the pressure Zola apologised to England for that decisive act. He was speaking in a tunnel beneath the stadium yesterday of mixing sorrow with joy again

'You cannot waste the mood, so I am not yet tense," the diminutive Italian said. Saturday is the match day, Friday you have to stay calm, conserve your mental energy, iust prepare."

The stubble on Zola's chin could not hide his gentleman's approachability, nor the slightly pained air with which he acknowledged his situation. He earns his living in London, is cherished there and recognises that, when Parma thought him finished and beyond his useful prime, Chelsea gave him new lease of life, And now, for the second time, he must try to utilise it for the destruction of his adopted

Paolo Maldini, Italy's favourite son and its captain, admits that the nervousness is rising in him, though it is nerves of anticipation and expectation. "I like the way England plays," Maldini, the younger, said.

"I don't care who is the referee, I am chosen to be captain only because I have the most caps. I will say at the beginning to Paul Ince: 'How are you doing?" Maldini has learnt his English from Ameri-cans, from Nike, his sponsor.

nce shares his world, has shared the territory on Italian fields; though, of course, tonight he is as intent on destroying Italy's dream as Maldini and Zola are England's. "You cannot waste the mood ..." It has such resonance.

Italy expects and all bar 7,000 in the stadium will pour down that weight of expecta-tion on their chosen XI. Seaman, the last man standing against that pulsating mood, will not know until this morning who partners Zola in

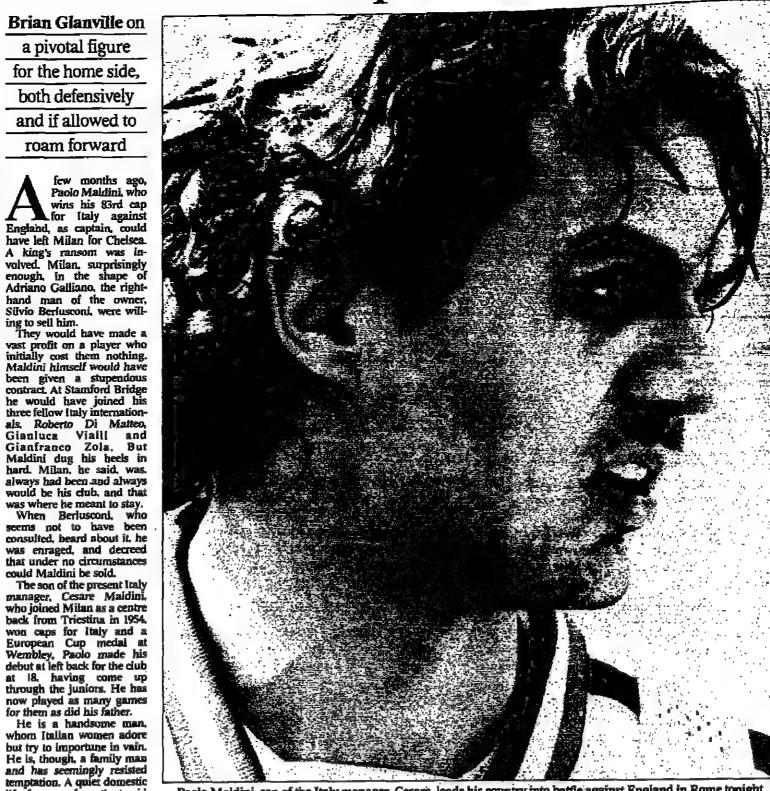
It is not now likely to be Pierluigi Casiraghi, for he looked heavy in training yeshidden groin strain. Instead the younger Christian Vieri, athletic and energetic, is likely to be preferred to the darting brilliance of Alessandro del Piero and Felippo Inzaghi, or indeed a fifth striker, Enrico

Such powers in reserve, and long gone are the days when coaches select more than two

To Seaman it makes little difference. He knows the shots are coming. He hopes to see them in good time and good



ه کدامن رالامل



Paolo Maldini, son of the Italy manager, Cesare, leads his country into battle against England in Rome tonight

players, among them Christian Ziege, Germany's attack-ing left back, and Winston Bogarde, of Ajax and Hol-land, also a left back.

But, with Milan failing to lure back Christian Panucci from Real Madrid, to whom Arrigo Sacchi had inexplicably sold him, Maidini has been obliged to play at right back. It is a tribute to his done so without public complaint, though the role is quite foreign to him and he clearly hopes to vacate it as soon as possible. Milan, meanwhile, continue their quest for Panucci.

Last season was a bad one for Milan and not such a good one for Paolo Maidini either. At times the edge seemed to have gone off his game as it did in Euro 96 when he had an uneasy game for Italy against Russia. where he was taken on by the powerful winger, Andrei

Kanchelskis, formerly of Manchester United and

Charming and available to English journalists, who are surprised by his fluent English when they talk to him in the Italy training camp at Coverciano, Maldini still

blow that rebounded, since a dazed Waddle went on to score a speciacular goal, which he knew little about Against England, Maldini

will probably play on the left of the defence, which is better than being on the right flank

#### 'He is always keen to take on opponents and strike for goal'

plaster saint

Chris Waddle might testify to that. When Milan played Marseilles in a notorious European Cup semi-final that ended with Galliano bringing his team off the field when the floodlights dimmed, Maldini struck

It was, you might say, a

Waddle across the back of the

should not be seen as a for one of his adventurous

And his father, Cesare? He trained his 23 men in the Olympic Stadium yesterday, concentrating first on ballplay - which, according to one Italian journalist, his decessor, Sacchi, never did - before starting a training game.

At the press conference afterwards he was his usual self; by turns genial and defensive. No. Cerio Ferrara. the injured centre back, had not played in the game as a precaution. The team doctor would decide whether he was fit; if not, there were plenty of good alternatives. He fenced with questions

about Gigi Casiraghi, who has put on weight and appears to have a groin strain. Christian Vieri remains favourite to start. "I say again," Maldini insisted, "we always try to win. This time, we have the necessity to win." He told us, too, that the suspended Di Matteo is planning to come out at his own request to be with the party.

So, we wait to see whether Ian Wright, who has notionally overtaken Cliff Bastin's scoring record at Arsenal. can emulate Bastin by scoring for England against Italy. as Bastin did when the countries met for the first time in Rome in 1933.

#### Giggs looks ahead to lifetime's ambition

HE HAS won titles and med-ais beyond the dreams of many a 23-year-old, has been to Wembley and has scored goals that rank in the pantheon of the best seen at Old Trafford and beyond, but Ryan Giggs believes nothing will match the feeling he gets when he steps on to the field in Brussels this evening. He will do so as the captain of Wales. the second-youngest player to have been accorded the honour, and, in his words: "This will be the greatest moment of my life. I will be so proud to lead Wales out."

No matter that he is leading a small nation in a game of little significance, at least to the Welsh, when the national gaze is turned to Rome. Always irritated by the question of whether he would rather play for England, he said: "I am Welsh and am proud of it. It never crosses my mind that I could play for someone else because I can't. I was born in Cardiff and my parents and grandparents are all Welsh. I am looking forward to this game immensely. Leading out my country will be a dream come true."

A dream, perhaps, but with an inexperienced side whose make-up is yet to be confirmed. Wales face a daunting task. Belgium need to win if they are to ensure second place in World Cup qualifying group seven and a play-off place, while Wales are missing key personnel, including Gary Speed, the regular caprain, who is absent through

# Eleven do-or-die England matches

World Cup, 17-6-88
After finishing level in group lour, the two learns
had to play off for a place in the quarter-finals.
liyin's goal put Walter Winterbottom's men on
the next plane home
BNGLAND: McDonald, Howe, Whight, Banks, Clayton,
Stater Brabrook, Broadbell, Kevan, Haynes, A'count

2. England 1 Poland 1 (Wembley)
World Cup qualifier, 17-10-73
A goalkeeper, apparently wearing a big red nose and a revolving bow-tie stopped almost everything England threw at him, Shilton gifted Poland a goal and the Germans had to hold the 1974 Medic Cup without their old mates. 1974 World Cup without their old mates SNGLAND: Shilton, Madeley, Hughes, McFarland, Hunter, Bell, Curro, Channon, Chivers (Hactor), Clarke, Peters

3. Czechoslovakia 2 England 1 (Bratislava) European championship qualifer, 30-10-75 Mike Channon gave England the lead but the Czechs bounced England all over Bratislava "They were worse than Argentina in 1966," Don Rivvia turned

 England 1 Hungary 0 (Wembley)
World Cup qualifier, 18-11-81
Romana's surprise home defeat by Switzerland gave England an unexpected chance to qualify for Spain 82. Paul Mariner's elegant stumble over the ball-assured that they did ENGLAND: Shirton, Neal, Thompson, Martin, Mils. Robson, McDermott, Brooking, Coppell (Morley), Mannar, Keegan

5. England 0 Spain 0 (Madrid) World Cup, 5-7-82 needing a win to go into the semi-finals. Ron Greenwood brings on permanently-injured stars, Keegan and Brooking, as late substitutes. Good move Ron. They missed glorious chances ENGLAND: Shitton, Mills, Butcher, Thompson, Sarcom, Williams, Robson, Francis, Ru (Keegan), Manner, Woodcoor, (Brooking) 6. England 3 Poland 0 (Monterrey)

World Cup, 11-6-86 The match that made Saint Gary a world star ENGLAND: Shillion, Stevens, Fernack, Butcher Sensom, Steven, Hoddle, Reid, Hodge, Linoker, Beardsley 7. Yugoslavia, 1 England 4 (Belgrade)
European championship qualifier, 11-11-87
Four goals in the first 25 minutes made it a stroll
ENGLAND: Shifton, Stevens, Sansom, Adams, Butcher,
Steven Robson (Red), Webb (Hoddle), Beardsley, Lineker,
Billions.

8. England 1 Holland 3 (Düsseldorf) European championship, 15-6-88 You 'Omble Little Basten said The Sun after the Dutch master's hat-trick put England out ENGLAND: Shiton, Stevens, Winght, Adams, Sansom, Steven, Hoddle, Robson, Barnes, Beardsley, Lingker

8. Poland 0 England 0 (Katowice)
World Cup qualifier, 11-10-89
If Tarassewicz's last-minute shot had been a foot
lower, England would not have qualified for Italia
90, there would have been no tears in Turin, no
Gazzamania and no comedy breasts at Luton

10. Poland 1 England 1 (Poznan)
European championship qualifier, 13-11-91
Andy Gray, Geoff Thomas, Andy Sinton — no wonder we needed Lineker's goal 13 mirutes from time to book a place in Euro 92
ENGLAND: Woods, Deon, Perce, Gray (Smith), Walter, Mabbutl, Platt, Thomas, Rocastle, Lineker, Sniton (Daley)

11, Holland 2 England 0 (Rotterdam) World Cup qualifier, 13-10-93 Take Ronald Koeman, a German referee and an England manager with a loosening grip on reality and what have you got? The end of an Amencan dream, but the the best football documentary in the world ... ever

Compiled by Richard Whitehead



The fears of a clown are allayed as Tomaszewski watches another England near-miss. Photograph: David Jones

#### WHAT IF? HOW LATVIA CAN PUT ENGLAND THROUGH

Larvia at Celtic Park today (Russell Kempson writes). Yet, if the Scots should lose or draw against Latvia, it Yet, if the Scots should lose or draw against Larvia, it would leave the way clear for England to qualify automatically for the finals. By virtue of Scotland's afternoon kick-off. Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, and his players could enter the Olympic Stadium in Rome this evening knowing exactly what they have got to do against Italy — nothing.

O: So. England can reach the finals automatically, even if they lose to Italy?

A: Yes They already have 12 points in the runners-up table and it is unikely that anybody can beat that total. A draw for the Scots against Latvia would give them 11 points.

O: But can't Spain get 14 points in group sk?

A: Yes, but they are going to win their group. They are hardly going to lose against the Faeroe Islands today.

O: And Belgium? By beating Wates, can't they finish level with England on 12 points in group sever?

A: Yes, but England enjoy a comfortable seven-goal advantage if it does come down to goal difference.

Q: And what about Austria?

A: If softend lose or draw, then Austria win group four. A: If Scotland lose or draw, then Austria win group lour.

Q: What about other countries in contention for a numeroup place? Can they overtake England?

A: No. Yugoslavia and Croatia have finished their games against the first, third and fourth-placed teams in their groups and have only 11 points. Portugal have done likewise and have nine points. Pussile, by beating Bulgeria, can still get only 11 points.

Q: Can Scotland miss out altogether?

A: Yes, If they draw areainst I shie, Supplies would move.

A: Yes, if they draw against Latvia, Sweden would move above them into second place in group four with a four-goal victory against Estonia, if the Scote lose against Latvia, any win for the Swedes will do.

4.5

Q: When will the draw for the play-offs be made? A: In Zurich on Monday at 4pm BST. It will not be seeded. Q: And when will the play-offs be played? A: First legs on October 29, second legs on November 15.

World Cup European zone

Siouena ... / U 1 n a 1/ 1
RESULTS: Greece 2 Slovene 0, Greece 3
Bosna-Herzegowne 0; Slovene 0 Demmark
2 Bosna-Herzegowne 1 Slovene 1 BosnaHerzegowne 2 Slovene 1 BosnaHerzegowne 2; Crosta 1 Greece 1, Crosta
1 Demmark 1, Bosna-Herzegowne 0
Greece 1: Crosta 3 Slovene 3, Demmark 4
Slovene 0; Crosta 1; Demmark 4
Slovene 0; Crosta 3 BosnaHerzegowne 0; Bosna-Herzegowne 3 Demmark 0; Crosta 3 BosnaHerzegowne 2: Slovene 4 Greece 3:

MATCHES TO COME: Today: Gree

RESULTS: Norway 5 Azerbaijan (); Azerbaijan 1 Switzerland 0; Hungary 1 Fireland 0; Firland 2 Switzerland 3, Norway 3 Hungary 0; Switzerland 0 Norway 1; Azerbaijan 0 Hungary 3, Azerbaijan 1 Firland 2 Switzerland 1 Hungary 0; Norway 1; Fireland 3, Sazerbaijan 0; Hungary 1 Switzerland 1, Switzerland 1; Firland 2; Azerbaijan 0; Norway 1; Hungary 1 Switzerland 1, Switzerland 1; Switzerland 1; Switzerland 1; Norway 1; Hungary 3 Azerbaijan 1; Norway 1; Hungary 4; H

"Records compled from results against lifst, third and tourn-placed sides in group." Figure in brackets indicates group

RESULTS: Israel 2 Bulgaria 1; Russia 4 Cypus 0; Lusembourg 1 Bulgaria 2; Israel 1 Russia 1; Cypus 2 Israel 0; Lusembourg 6 Russia 1; Cypus 2 Israel 1 Bulgaria 3, Israel 1 Lusembourg 0; Cypus 1 Russia 1; Lusembourg 0 Israel 3; Bulgaria 4 Cypus 1 Israel 2; Cypus 5; Russia 3 Lusembourg 0; Bulgaria 4 Lusembourg 0; Russia 2 Israel 0; Bulgaria 4 Lusembourg 0; Russia 2 Israel 0; Bulgaria 1 Russia 0; Lusembourg 1 Cypus 3; Bulgaria 4 Russia 0; MATCHES TO COME: Today: Cyprus Lustembourg: Plussia v Bulgaria.

Yugoslavia 1, Malta D Czech Republic 1, . Slovakia 1 Spain 2. MATCHES TO COME: Today. Czech Republic v Slovakie; Malta v Yugoslasia; Span v Faeroe Isles.

RESULTS: San Marino 0 Wales 5; Wales 6
Sen Marino 0; Belgium 2 Turkey 1; Weles 1
Holland 3; San Marino 0 Belgium 3; Holland
7 Wales 1; Turkey 7 San Marino 0; Wales 0
Turkey 0; Belgium 0 Holland 3; Weles 1
Belgium 2; Holland 4 San Marino 0; Turkey
1 Holland 0; Turkey 1 Belgium 6; San Marino
0; Turkey 6; Weles 4; Holland 3; Belgium 1;
Sen Marino 0 Turkey 5. MATCHES TO COME: Today: Holland v. Turkey, Belgium v Wales.

MATCHES TO COME: Today, Germany Albenta, Portugal v Northern Izeland; Armi nia v Ukrana.

### FOOTBALL SATURDAY

ه ي المن الإمل

# Ince puts the Guv'nor to rest

In the search for leadership.

if adventur

England have

turned to a

hard man with

a soft centre

is nickname is like a remnant of a former life. It was nice for a while, because it started off as a joke between friends, but it got twisted around until it began to be used against him. People said it was evidence of megalomania. Some said it showed a craving for respect, others that he was forced out of Old Trafford because of it. None of it was true, but Paul Ince is an older, wiser man now and he does not want a nickname any more. England's captain in Rome tonight wants to consign The Guy nor to the past.

He does not need it now, anyway. Most people, however begrudgingly, accept that he and the recentlysidelined Roy Keane are the most accomplished midfield players in Great Britain. He is at the peak of his game, captain of Liverpool and the team's driving force, captain of the England team that will stride out at the Olympic Stadium tonight for the country's most importantgame since Euro 96. Never has he been more dominant; never, in fact, more gubernatorial.

Yet that is not the reason why he wants to bring the era of The Guvnor to a dignified close. It is more to do with the fact that that nickname more than anything else has burdened him with an image, a. snarling, prickly, arrogant image, that those who meet him more than fleetingly know to be utterly false.

To the outsider, there was always something faintly sinister and intimidatory about it. The Guvmor: it conjured up scenes from films such as Get Carter or old episodes of The Sweeney and it was made worse because of the misconception that Ince, like some sort of swagger-ing enforcer, insisted on its use. The reality, it transpires, is rather different

"I want to get this straight," Ince says. "The Guy'nor was not about respect. It wasn't like that at all. When I was at West Ham, I used to go to a snooker hall in Dagenham from, every time we finished training. Every time anyone played a good shot, a long red or something like that, whoever it was would shout out 'who's the guv nor' and the rest of us would say 'yeah, yeah,

Then I went up to United and we had shooting practice and if I scored a good goal. I would shout out who's the guvnasas' like that. Then after while, Kiddo [Brian Kidd, United's assistant manageri started calling me the Guynor and all of a sudden it just got round like wildfire. The crowd was saying 'Paul Ince is the Guv nor and I got GUV on my car and it started like that. It wasn't intentional. I didn't mean anything by it. It just got out of hand - in a nice way, not a horrible way.

"But the papers have said things about 'the self-proclaimed Guv'nor'. That is a load of rubbish. I never went to anyone at the club and said listen. I'm the Guvnor, you call me the Guynor or I'll do this and that". That was never the case. I couldn't go into Man United with the likes of Robbo (Bryan Robson] and Brucey [Steve Bruce] there and say I'm the Guvnor because I wasn't like that.

"When I first came here to Liverpool, a few of the boys said 'all right Guy, all right Guy and to be honest, I don't like it any more. It was a phase that happened at Manchester United. When I went to Inter Milan, it never really happened. That was when I got rid

"When I came back here, Adidas



sent me a pair of boots for my first game with Guynor on top of the boots and I said 'listen, I don't want get rid of that tag. I don't want to be called that any more.' You know, I'm nearly 30 years of age. It's about time people started calling me Paul Ince."

As he talks in the players' canteen at Liverpool's Melwood training ground, Ince breaks off occasionally to chat with the staff who wander in and out. He knows them all by name, even though he has only been at the club for six weeks. Liverpool have one of the friendlier set-ups in the FA Carling Premiership, probably the most open bunch of players, and Ince fits in perfectly.

If he can seem sullen or a little suspicious on a peremptory meeting, it is soon apparent it is just a façade. Behind it, there is a sincere, quietly-spoken man, sharp and quick-witted, patriotric and so devoted to his family that he resisted Internazionale's pleas for him to stay in Italy and returned to England in the summer because he was concerned about the schooling of his young son, Thomas. He is, in fact, the antithesis of what those who have never met him expect.

"I have mellowed with age." Ince smiles, "When I was young, 21 or 22, no one could tell me anything. I'm not afraid to say it. I had a big chip on my shoulder, probably two shoulders. I would react to anything. It was only when I went to United and I was in the same team as Bryan Robson that that changed. If he said anything, I

would listen to him. "When I was 24 or 25, I realised that I wasn't getting anywhere by kicking out, shouting at referees, having this attitude problem. I had Thomas when I was 25. I thought 'hang about, we've got one kid in the family now, we don't need two', I thought I had to start acting more was when it all started to change.

· "All of a sudden, I started to play well and people started to notice, but there was still this perception that I was a horrible person off the field. I wasn't, or at least I didn't intend to be. It was just the way I was, youth, exu-

berance, but now I look back and think I must have been a right horrible so-and-so when I was that age because I can remember the things that I did. "As you get old-

er, other things take over. My family is more important to me than anything else in the world. Once it was football. That's changed. I used to go home and take my football home to my family. When I had Thomas, I

and see his face and even if we had got beat. Thomas

Ryan Giggs.

would come home

would want to play something and that has changed me. That is when it turned around for me as a footballer. I could either have gone uphill or downhill and having Thomas made me go uphill."

It was a steep ascent. After the bitterness of his move from West Ham United, he established himself as a favourite at Old Trafford because of his fine, uncompromising tackling. He helped to bring United their first championship since 1967

as part of the great side that spawned the present champions, the side of Bruce, Robson, Andrei

United supporters were dismayed when Alex Ferguson sold both him and Kanchelskis two years ago and, after a shaky start in Milan, Ince soon became a hero at the San Siro, too, scoring ten goals against the parsi-

monious Serie A defences last season before Liverpool tempted him back to England and paid Inter more than £4 million for his services. By then, Ince had long estab-

lished himself at the heart of the England midfield. He has won 33 caps and played a starring role in Euro 96. But for Terry Venables's curious decision to ignore him for a year after he missed the Umbro Cup tournament, his international

Now, he is fighting the last of the labels, the one that has got him down as a hard man, the ballwinner that Liverpool needed to complete their championship jigsaw. His revisionism is grounded in his goalscoring and flashes of creative brilliance, like the pass that split the Polish defence in Katowice in May and led to Alan Shearer's opening goal.

"If you have got players like

Macca |Steve McManaman|, Beckham and Gazza alongside you, you get the ball and give it to them so and lose the ball, they are relying on me to go and use my talent to get it back. It is not like I am a dog for them, because I am a lot better than that, but you have to know your limitations.

"We have all got our own talents. Some talents will get people off their seats by beating three or four men, some won't. I'm the kind of player fans can relate to because I give them my heart, 110 per cent every game.
"What I don't like is the hard-

man image. I always say to myself: 'What is a hard man? Is it someone who just kicks people, who tackles dirty, or someone who wins the ball? If going in for a 50-50 ball and winning it nine times out of ten makes me a hard man, then so be it, but people who just kick people off the ball are called hard men too, and that is an insult to me because there is more to my game than that.

score goals, I can pass the ball, not many people get past me and I tackle well. That is the most important thing to me. I tackle fairly. Nobody can ever say to me that I am a dirty player, that I am malicious, that I go out to try to do people. If they say anything about Paul Ince, they have to say he is a hard tackler, but he tackles fair. He is a hard man in that respect. He wants to win."

Glenn Hoddle's decision to make him captain ahead of Tony Adams suggests that that message is starting to be heard and tonight, in Rome, he will go out to prove it again. Not the Guv nor, not a ballwinner, not a hard man, not the man you expect. Just the captain. Paul Ince.

TATE VERSES ENGLAND 3: England 2 Poland 1: Italy 1 Georgia 0: Georgia O England 2: Poland 2 Moldove 1: England O Ital 1: Italy 3 Moldova O: Poland 0 Italy 0: Italy 3 Poland O, England 2 Georgia O; Poland O England 2. Georgia 2 Moldova O; Poland 4 Georgia 1; Georgia O Italy O; England 4 Moldova O; Moldova O Georgia 1; ova 8 0 0 8 2 21 0 Caps Goals Caps Goals GOALKEEPERS:

C Ferrara (Juventus, 30) A Costacurta (AC Milan, 31) (AC Milan, 3 (Lazio, 21) varo (Parma, 24) (AC Milan, 29) (Parma, 29) (Real Madad, 24) (Inter, 23) (A Madrid, 24) (Juventus, 24) MIDFIELD Caps Goals Caps Goals 52 10 10 (Rangers, 30) (Man Utd, 22) (Newcastie, 28) (Man Utd, 22) 26 3 DEFENDERS: G Neville P Neville G Le Saux (Man Utd. 22) (Man Utd. 20) (Chelsea, 28) (Everton, 28) (Aston Villa, 27) (Mán Utd, 32) (Tottenham, 23) S Campbell MIDFIELD:

1933: Rome - Italy 1, England 1 1934: Highbury - England 3, Italy 2 1939: Milan - Italy 2, England 2 1948: Tunn - Italy 0, England 4 1949: Tottenham - England 2, Italy 0 1952: Florence - Italy 1, England 1 1959: Wembley - England 2, Italy 2 1961: Rome - Italy 2, England 3 1948: Turin - Italy 2, England 0 1973: Wembley - England 0

(inter, 30)

1976: New York - England 3, Italy 2 1976: Rome - Italy 2, England 0 1977: Wembley - England 2, Italy 0 1980: Turtin - Italy 1, England 0 1985: Mesico City - England 1, Italy 2 1989: Wembley - England 0, Italy 0 1990: Bari - Italy 2, England 1

Referee: Mario van der Ende (Holland), FIFA official since 1990





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### FOOTBALL SATURDAY

# Confidence remains sky-high after keeping low profile

was a game on. Tucked away, as we are, in a very quiet hotel on the outskirts of Rome and with no access to the media or the public, there has been remarkably little pressure on the players before the contest today. I can appreciate that there is an

intense interest in the match against Italy back home. It is obviously a match of huge importance: the players understand that and we are all absolutely desperate to reach the World Cup finals. Yet there has been no tension, no atmosphere, because we are so

isolated. We arrived at the airport

on Wednesday, went through passport control and went back outside to the runway, where a bus was waiting to take us to the hotel. Since then, we have been either training, eating or relaxing in our rooms. That is it. I have never been to Rome before, but there is no chance of discovering if it is as

beautiful as is often suggested.

our thoughts are concentrated on

The lack of pressure in the buildup is a good thing. This is a young England squad and it would be foolish to communicate the tension back home into nerves at this stage. We are so relaxed that we could be on holiday, apart from the

absence of sightseeing, of course. Even the staff at the hotel haven't bothered winding us up because most of them don't speak English. As a result, it has been very, very low-key and most of our time has been spent in our rooms. resting - not even reading the newspapers. Most of the lads have occupied their time by playing computer games.

There are the obvious excep-tions. Ian Wright is hyper, he is always on the go, doing something or other, just a bundle of energy. Gazza is the same and, between them, the pair do a lot in lifting the spirit in the squad. Wherever there is a noise, wherever anything is happening, one or the other will be

On the flight out to Italy, Gazza was in the cockpit, probably trying to fly the plane. I was sitting next to Robbie Fowler and Paul Ince and it didn't go down well with them because they are both terrified of flying. Every bump or dip had them screaming that Gazza was at the controls.

Training has been fairly relaxed. too. We have been concentrating on practice games and a few skills, as well as crossing and shooting. We have trained every day and will even have a session today, when we will work on set-pieces and special moves.

The emphasis, though, has been on relaxing the squad, keeping everything as calm as possible in what was potentially a fevered build-up. Even before we left we could sense the pressure being heaped on the Italy squad and our manager wanted to



avoid that. I have noted with interest the thoughts of those Italians who are playing in Eng-land. They seem to think that they have gained an advantage with their experience in the FA Carling Premiership, but I am not so sure.

Perhaps Gianfranco Zola knows little bit more about Tony Adams, but we certainly know a lot more about him and, as he will play a significant part in Italy's strategy, then England have a

Zola is an excellent player. He only managed 25 minutes against Liverpool last Sunday, but even during that time, you could see what a good player he is. His movement. He is a dangerous player in the way that he finds space and exploits it so well. The Italian players have been

quite complimentary about our squad, suggesting that we have improved over the past few seasons and are now a real threat to them. What amuses me is the suggestion that England's performance in the summer against Italy and Manchester United's result against Juventus in the European Cup Champions' League have given England a huge boost in confidence. They haven't, purely because we were confident already. I wrote after our defeat against Italy at Wem-

bley back in February that we still

felt we could go to Rome and win and that feeling has persisted ever

We had our opportunities at Wembley and we came away feeling that we should have won. There is no question of us feeling inferior, because we saw a year ago that we could heat Italy. In fact, in many ways, our system is better suited to piaying away from home, so Rome certainly holds no

I know there was a bad reaction to our performance at Wembley against Italy, but playing in the match, you get a very different perspective. We pounded away at the Italy defence and put pressure on them for much of the match, only to lose to a breakaway goal. In Rome, it will be quite the opposite. There is little doubt that

the Italians will pound away at us, because they have to win. Of course, being Italians, they won't go all out, because it is not their way. They will play a cagey game and still try to tempt us forward,

But they will have the majority of possession, purely because they are at home. That is the way with international football. What England have to do is to ensure that we do not get drawn into going all out and get

If you look at our away games so far, then it is obvious that we have succeeded tactically. We haven't

ing style, we have been tactically aware, sitting back and controlling the game. Strangely enough, the Italians haven't done that, apart from the Wembley performance. They dropped points in Poland and Georgia. If we can repeat our performances from the away games against those two countries, we can be confident of getting a

Not that I would even remotely suggest that this is anything other than a very tough game. How often do Italy lose at home? I suspect that they would have looked at the group and been happy, at the start, with the prospect of having to win their final game at home to reach the

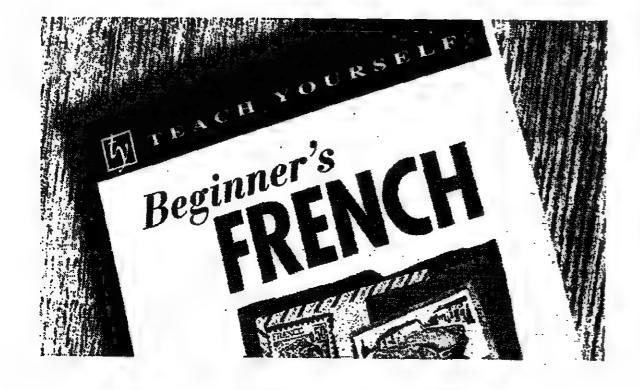
We are under no illusions. We will have to produce our best-performance of the qualifying compension if we are to reach the World Cup finals. History is against us as well. Everyone has been at pains this week to point out that we haven't won in Italy for

more than 30 years.

But then we aren't playing history. It is the here and now, and the past counts for nothing. It doesn't matter that we haven't won over here for some time. It matters immensely that we win this evening. Italy are favourites, but we are confident and calm. I just hope that, when I next write this column, we will be celebrating a famous result in the Eternal City.

STEVE MCMANAMAN

# AFTER TODAY'S MATCH ENGLAND WI STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN.





Good luck to England in their final World Cup qualifier against Italy.

## SVERKEND WARREN

TODAY

**FROME ASTRO** 

Sotland mind



## The playground that became a battleground

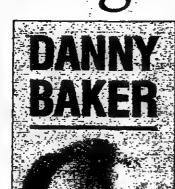
of this column's first write-in competition. It is to discover the most eccentric games master in the history of teaching. Naturally, after such a mechanical beginning, I'm about to plump up a cushion and rattle off my own pretty ripe entry but, rest assured if my nomination is eventually declared the winner I shall be as shocked as anyone and will think long and hard about accepting the

prize money (£50). His name was Mr Geoghan and he taught at West Greenwich Boys Comprehensive in Deptford, While it is de rigueur in showbusiness to lay claim to an upbringing that included periods as a galley slave and Angolan Dog Of War you will just have to believe me — or perhaps ask a policeman - when I tell you West Greenwich was a rough house. It had a 60-40 white-black racial split, which I know in today's problem-free era of exciting British Airway logos it is impolite to notice, but it led to the most fabulous playground bundles. (The Playground Bundle being an irresistible mobile scrap of the kind that splendidly still breaks out in any masculine team game when players lose patience with the actual fixture, pull off the false beard of formal rules and give us a whiff of the amphitheatre.)

WEEKENDHAM

Quite simply, at certain play-times, all the white kids would line up at one end of the playground and all the black kids at the other. Then we would charge each other and, basically, make the whole Poll Tax turnout in Trafalgar Square look like very small beer indeed. This was no depressing evidence of urban racial tension. although if we had been told by several men in beards that it was we would have bought into it and then carried on charging at each other, but this time with an excuse." No, it was a great game. A terrifically exhilarating exercise in which the only object was to get to the other side of the yard and hopefully land a juicy one en route.

So, into this testosterone broth comes Mr Geoghan. Mr Geoghan deed, as it turns out, has only been



back from Nam about eight months. He was Henry Winkler's Fonz out of Bruce Lee. Now with his new English bride, a sociology teacher, he's taken up teaching PE in Deptford and is not fazed one little bit. Mr Geoghan sets about sorting out the kids with all the skills the Marine Corps have issued him with in order to bring Charlie to heel.

for one whole year he's pushing, shoving, elbowing and once, very memorably grabbing John Howe and I swear, after singing the line "For he's the leader of the pack!" "revving" the side of Howesy's head like a Harley-Davidson. Here, at last, was one of us. Mr Geoghan doesn't know about football but joins in all our games, wrecking them and laughing like a loon. He once told me that not only would I captain England but that they would re-design the ball to look like my face. (In fact quite the reverse came to pass.) He famously announced that cricket was a "fag's pastime" - a secret, unexpressed thought is short, athletic and speaks in a within us all surely - and instead broad American accent, and in- of playing the last eight overs sometimes we would all get in a breath the longest. Those who cheated or went less than 30 seconds had to run round the circle until they fell over.
One day, he asked a bunch of us

in the changing rooms to explain the previous day's "bundle" for which about half the school were doing detention that night. We did and, eyes twinkling, he pronounced it the first serious sporting event he'd encountered since arriving on this dreary island. Far from seconding the headmaster's call for a total ban, he told us that, while appreciating the spontaneous nature of the event, if he could be given some kind of notice of the next bout he would be happy to act as referee, coach and even disciplinarian to those judged not pulling

he next suggested shifting the match to the gravel pitch behind a local warehouse. The upshot was there was never another bundle at West Greenwich. I genuinely don't think that was the intention but, alas, in sanctioning the madness, the fix was in. (Americans were later to do much the same with Punk Rock.) He could often be found surreptitiously asking about the prospect of a little action but the whole thing had become an embarrassment, somehow childish. The playground became merely a place to ossip and gamble. Mr Geoghan left after one full

school year and we never heard of him again. In telling his story I don't want you to be left with the impression of some gung-ho hero of ours or even that we became deeper, more rounded young proles because of being Punched By An Angel. We didn't. But it's a matter of cold hard fact that we did not lose a single football match league or cup — all that year. (We were regularly routed at cricket, though.) No, Mr G was just another one of the dozens of sports teachers who drifted through our comprehensive, memorable only because he was so potty. And because other people have met games masters pottier. So let's make it a round hundred.



Pull your socks up, sunshine: another exhausted Premiership player

that, as gloriously vanquished

nations, we were brothers and all

When I told them that, in fact, England and Germany hadn't even kicked off yet and England

were still IN the World Cup, they

told me to sit back down and stop

living in a fantasy land. "You are

England. Like Italy you are not

Germany or Argentina. We cannot

be these nations. Our theatres

have tragedy. Our football has

the beauty of different possi-

they had was mine.

## Why I like

IT'S no good. We simply can't hate Italy. There are certain eternal enemies but the Eyeties aren't one of them. If tonight's match were in Germany then I suspect the entire populace might've been given the week off like top players are these days before they have to put together a couple of passes.

Italy are cool. I remember being in Italy the day after they'd gone out of the '90 World Cup to snivelling Argentina and I've never seen a people so thunderstruck. Each and every piazza was covered in prostrate moaning bodies like the famous Confederate wounded scene in Gone With The Wind. There were no buses, no mail was being delivered and all official buildings remained shut.

I sat in a hotel bar in Turin and fell in with some locals who round. Eventually the maudlin wine-supported tears made it clear

#### one of the "pull-your-socks-up-you-should-try-working-for-a-living" sort. But the fact is they really should pull their socks up and try working for a living. ! know nothing about that, of course, but I know people who do, and when they say they're tired they're usually bleeding and covered in roofing asphalt. To relax they play football. Then again, it's not usually the players themselves who do the whining about "fired". It's managers. More specifically managers who have just been knocked out of cups. But like that other specious soccer science "technique", "fixture congestion" seems

buzzes about in post-match interviews. It may be an obvious swipe but I hope when managers call the fire brigade they get told they can't come around to the fire because the lads have just come back from one - give us 20 minutes there's a More importantly ... it's not important. So clubs get knocked out of competitions, so what?

to have become another empty

piece of touchline bullshit that

You're breaking my heart with the four times in ten days. You had a go at it, you failed - big deal. Be

A few hours later we gathered

again to sing even sadder songs.

So tonight as Gascoigne and Ince add goals four and five to England's total there will be a part

of me owning up that, yes, "there

but for the grace of God" and, as a

mark of respect, I shall leave at

long shot though it is, there may

later come a gentle tap at my front

door along with the sounds of soft

sobs and mandolins. Senori, I still

IF, BY chance, David Mellor should

knock on your door seeking a signature

for his ingratiating petition to bring back

terracing to football stadiums, I hope you will

take off his glasses and put them down a

convenient drain. Really, the gall of the body behind this insulting idea is breathtaking.

When the Taylor Report was all the rage and

every running-scared directors'-box dweller in

owe you one ...

to tell football players to stop

complaining about being tired all

the time without coming across as

big. If you truly are worried about giving the public less than 100 per cent entertainment then you've forgotten that most people love to see Arsenal. United, Chelsea, etc. get caned whatever the reason, so who cares if you couldn't Do Your Best Baden-Powell?

Yeah, tired excuse

As for England tonight I don't think the week off makes the slightest bit of difference. It is no guarantee of anything. If we really wanted to unnerve the Italians we would have come up with a new domestic competition just for this week that ended on Friday night. Failing that, I recommend England don't turn up for the game until about three minutes before kick-off and then arrive noisily giving each other piggy-backs anyone who's played Sunday League knows what a freak-out that is. But our current obsession with letting the world know how tired actually playing the damn game makes our athletes can only encourage the Italians to wear huge alarm clocks around their necks in the manner of Public Enemy's Flavour Flav and distract our defence at corners with exaggerated theatrical yawns.

Besides, the merest glance at the Rolling Stones' punishing tour dates should bring a blush to every manager's cheek in the

#### Why I like Italy (2)

ON ENTERING Turin's

least one bottle of Barolo breathing Cup semi-final England v Germany, an Italian policeman untouched on the sideboard. For, searched both myself and my bags and took the following action. He removed my little Union Jack from the small candy-floss style stick it was on, put the flug in a large sack and gave me back the stick. After walking on a few paces I was tapped on the shoulder by the same policeman, now very flustered, joined by somebody I guessed to be his immediate superior. The superior looked very steamed. The policeman handed me back the flag but requested he have the stick. Apparently that was the way they'd been told to do it and the poor bloke had plainly not been listening. I was not his first customer either. His sack was full of flags and, presumably, inside the ground, supporters were leaning over and poking people several blocks away with long poles. This sort of thing does not happen in

☐ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday from 5.30pm.

## Scotland mindful of their task

By KEVIN McCarra

IMAGINATION may be prized on the field, but before a match begins it is only a source of torment. The Scotland players realise that they need only to defeat Latvia at Celtic Park this afternoon to make virtually certain of a place in the World Cup finals. Anxiety, however, finds its way of seeping through the chinks in that simple assertion and the team can envisage a horrible disappointment.

Even if Scotland do win this afternoon, they are liable to be second in group four, behind Austria. Automatic qualification for the finals is open only to the best of the runners-up in Europe.

Craig Brown's team should enjoy that status, but they would be supplanted if Spain were outlandishly feckless enough to lose at home to the Faeroe Isles.

Such an outcome is so farfetched as to be discounted by dispassionare analysts, but, in Scotland, emotions, dread, are at work. The 50,000 people at Celtic Park are as ready to writhe with anxiety as they are to celebrate. For the players, at least, there will be an escape route from the circ- against Latvia because Brown

GROUP FOUR

umstances of the qualification seems to have a fully-fit squad now that doubts over the fit-Getting the better of Latvia ness of Kevin Gallacher have

should take up all of their available concentration. Brown, the manager, will barely discuss the possibility of a triumph for the Faeroes' part-timers in Gijon this evening. "We'd be looking for a stewards' inquiry if that hap-pened." he said succinctly. Brown is more concerned that his side should bring a familiar performance to an unusual

So far, the team has won all four of its group matches at home in group four and, incongruous though it may seem. Scotland are establishing a reputation for reliability. There is no apparent reason for the pattern to be disrupted

Austria (), Latvia 2 Belarus (), Sweden Scotland 1; Austria 2 Estonia (), Estonia Latvia 3; Belarus () Scotland 1; Latvia Austria 3; Estonia 2 Sweden 3; Estonia Austria 3; Belarus 1 Sweden 2; Austria Sweden (), Latvia 1 Estonia (), Scotland Selarus 1; Belarus () Austria 1; Sweden Latvia (), MATCHES TO COME: Today: Author

diminished. "Every player in my starting line-up has been in outstanding form recently," the manager said. "There have been rave reviews for Craig Burley. John Collins has been captaining Monaco. Gary McAllister has been at his best for Coventry

The unsolicited testimonials are unusual, given that Brown has a horror of the vainglorious trait that lies in the Scottish character. His purpose is to remind the

team that it is asked only to live up to standards it has already set. "I take optimism from our

last match, when we beat

"Against Latvia, I want us to take the initiative and keep the game at a high pace. We have nighly experienced players who know they can't afford any lapses in concentration. When Estonia came to

Scotland we didn't expect them to come out of defence. Belarus got a penalty at Pittodrie, but they probably only had one other chance. Latvia are better than either of those teams and they like to play, even when they are away from home. In Vladimir Babicevs, they have a very creative footballer."

The Scotland players who have performed valiantly in group four know, however, that the most formidable adversaries to be encountered today are the fears and inhibitions that lurk inside their own

SCOTLAND (probable; 3-5-2); J Laighton (Aberdeen) — C Hendry (Blackburn Roverst, C Daily (Delby County). C Celderwood (Totterstern Hotspur) — C Burley (Celtic), G McMilleter (Coverst), C Jambert (Bloussia Doutreund), J Collins (AS Monaco), T Boyd (Celtic) — G Durle (Rangerst, K Gellacher (Blackburn Rovers).

Radio Mellor makes its mark at Barnsley. Mark Hodkinson reports

the country was scurrying about demanding football supporters pay some kind of price for Hillsborough — and if

ever there was a piece of middle-class spite against working-class

supporters that report was it — those who voiced the opinion that fans

Now, because Manchester United or Liverpool or somesuch

supermarket have wondered aloud if they might not cram a few extra

shekels out of existing space by removing some seats and employing

gangs of those "pushers" so popular on Tokyo tube trains, all of a

beauty of such a scheme. And naturally they've dressed it up as

sudden the greasy chins around Lancaster Gate suddenly see the

actually liked terracing were denounced and patronised.

"responding" to a genuine request from the rank and file.

## Accent that resonates at Oakwell

ottles of mineral water Stand on the top table and there is a pen and a notebook in front of each of the five seats. A huge Radio 5 Live banner is draped across the concrete breeze-blocks painted a job-lot magnolia.

David Mellor strides into the room, past microphone stands and football supporters in their team colours. Players in the red of Barnsley stare down from team photographs on the wall. The squad of 1978-79 look like

an anthropologi-cal exhibit of an ancient race of footballers: all loose-ring perms. moustaches and skinny, boyish bodies. The last time Mellor was in Barnsley, he the town centre looking for old ladies willing to offer a hand to shake, or young mothers with babies to fuss over. Where he

once solicited

votes for the Conservative Party, he now seeks the voice of the authentic football supporter. "Come on, have your say," he implores, and the airwaves are yours - if there is enough time between his next discourse and the 8

o'clock news. While the executive suite at Oakwell hosts this latest "football forum", there is a hullabaloo taking place in another northern town, a 90-minute drive to the west. Plion Jenkins, fiancée of William Hague, the Leader of the Opposition, has taken the conservative out of Conservatism with the help of an

immodest black dress at the

party's annual conference. So, Blackpool is on fire, awash with flashlights, drunk on the romance of renaissance. Mellor, the nation's ultimate

the festivities because he is in Barnsley, in cuff-links. A football forum is an itinerant talking-shop where Mellor gets to play shopkeeper. A smart shopkeeper he is too, in an outfit he might well proffer as a potential Chelsea

strip: blue shirt with pin-

stripes, white coliar and cuffs, and, of course, links. Alongside him is a quietly charismatic panel rich in football acumen: Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager: Chris Kamara, the Bradford City

manager; Steve Nicol, the Sheffield Wednesday Mark Lawrenson, the former professional turned pundit. The audience has been selected judiciously. They are polite,

informed, attentive, the kind of people who know that the plural of stadium is stadia. They have submitted questions beforehand and these

have been typed out by someone at the radio station, so they can be read aloud when a microphone is swung over their head. The clapping at the start is ominously reminiscent of Gardener's Question Time. of the early queries. He's not

Wilson, as host, is the focus born to the spotlight, and it finds him reluctantly. He says "in all honesty" and "at this moment in time" rather a lot. but between the cliches there back, gives a seething look



Itinerant talking shop: from left, Wilson, Mellor and Nicol at the radio debate in Barnsley's executive suite

are words of sincerity and assurance. In answer to the question, at this moment in time he does not know, in all honesty, whether Barnsley are equipped to survive in the FA Carling Premiership.

Lawrenson plays the comic and his irreverence is a necessary foil to Mellor's pontificating. The panel members are remarkably acquiescent to their chairman, their demeanour suggesting that they feel like schoolboys in the presence of the headmaster. He knows more words than they do, has posh accent, and whereas they are apprehensive of the microphone, he adores it.

The issues discussed are typical fare: referees, a proposed mid-winter break, stewarding, a return to terraces, and racism in the

Mellor mistakenly asks someone at the back to speak and a lady with a clipboard waves her arms and shakes her head. He follows her command, but, behind her that would make Dennis Bergleamp mis-hit in front of an

Mellor, to his credit, is not without a sense of humour, though the best one-liner of the evening belongs to Lawrenson, with a creditable assist from Wilson. Ian O'Brien, of Wakefield, asks whether footballers are fair to their fans. citing a recent visit to the Liverpool training ground where he saw a player drive through a group of children waiting for his autograph.

"At Barnsley we chase after the kids and make them have our autographs." Wilson says. That's if you can catch them," Lawrenson adds.

John Dennis, the Barnsley chairman, is spotted in the corridor afterwards, looking distinctly proud that Barnsley has been visited by a national

radio station. Perhaps next time, if Mellor is to turn from peach white to magnolia, the forum should be held in Barnsley market or at one of the town's working men's clubs; and no one gets to

#### Keane is resigned to missing finals the more you know about

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN DUBLIN

IRELAND'S World Cup qualıfying match against Romania at Lansdowne Road this afternoon is little more than an irrelevance. Romania, the unbeaten leaders of group eight. have already reached the finals in France next year and Ireland, unless there is a huge turnaround in their goal difference with Lithuania, have secured the runners-up spot and a place in the play-offs.

Of more significance in the city yesterday was the appearance of Roy Keane, the Ireland and Manchester United midfield player. Keane tore the cruciate ligament in his right knee in the FA Carling Premiership game against Leeds United a formight ago and has conceded that not only is his- any player and you never say going to do," he said. "I think

GROUP EIGHT 

Liechtensten... 9 0 0 9 3 48 0 RESULTS: Magadonia 3 Liechtenstein 0; Iceland 1 Magadonia 1, Liechtenstein 0 lie-iand 5; Romana 3 Uthuania 0, Lithuania 2 Iceland 0; Iceland 0 Romanio 4; Ireland 3 Magadonia 0: Lithuania 2 Decitenstein 1; Liechtenstein 1: Magadonia 11, Ireland 0

Macedonia . . 9 4 1 4 21 16 13 | celand . . . . . 9 1 3 5 7 16 6

season over, but also that he is

should they go to France. "Setting yourself targets can be a bit dangerous, but, realistically, I'm aiming to be back for pre-season training." he said. "I suppose if Ireland qualify for the finals, I could be there. It's the pinnacle for

unlikely to play for Ireland

Iceland O; Mecedorus O Romenia 2; Romania 8 Liechtenstein O; Mecedonia 3 Ireland 2: Lahuania O Romania 1; Romenia 1 Ireland O; Liechtenstein O Lithurnia 2; Ireland 5; Liechtenstein O; Macedonia 1 Iceland O; Iceland O Lithurnia O; Ireland O Lithurnia O; Liechtenstein O Iceland 4; Romenia 4 Macedonia 2; Iceland 2 Ireland 61 Liechtenstein 1 Sympania 8; Lithurnia 2

MATCHES TO COME: Today: lealand v Lechtensterr, soland v Ramana; Macedona v Lithuera.

never. Yet to go straight into them without any games behind me would be tough." Keane has undergone preliminary surgery and will have an operation to repair the ligament within the next ten days. "I've already seen a video of what happens so I've

got a fair idea what they're

injuries, the better. I'll be an expert on cruciate ligaments by the time I'm back." Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, will field a barely recognisable side against Ro-

mania. Nine members of his squad are on one yellow card and he does not want to risk losing them for the play-offs. Ray Houghton is captain for the first time and Lee Carsley is likely to make his debut.

IRELAND (probable): A Kelly (Shelfield United), S Carr (Totterham Hotepur), G Breen (Coverny City), P Babb (Liverpod), C Perming (Middlectmorph), A McLoughlin Protonouth), R Houghton (Resolne), J McAber (Liverpod), L Careley (Derby Courty), A Casasino (Nancy), T Coyen (McChenes)

Motherwelli, (probable)\* B Steline (Sala-manca). D Pathescu (Chelsee), Gabriel Popeasu (Universitätea Cratowa), A Dobos (AEX Athens), I Filippeasu (Galetassete), Giteorghe Popeasu (Galetassete), D Mun-temiu PC Catogno), A Ita (Galetassete), D Mun-(Galetassete), T Salymes (Anderlecht), Galetassete), T Salymes (Anderlecht),

. هڪذار من رالامل

TENNIS: BRITAIN NO 1 GETS FOURTH CHANCE FOR FIRST VICTORY IN SEMI-FINAL SHOWDOWN TODAY

## Henman's run under threat from Rusedski

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE showdown sought by every British tennis fun became reality here yesterday when Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman dispatched their respective opponents for the right to meet each other in the semi-finals of the CA Trophy. test by the fact that Rusedski has not beaten Henman in three previous encounters.

The world ranking system decrees that Rusedski should start favourite. His recent string of successes has swept him clear of Henman as the Britain No l. but any argument surrounding their relative merits can only be resulved out on court. The two have not met for nearly 12 months, when Henman won 7-6, 7-5 in Ostrava. If the momentum is now with Rusedski, so impressive was Henman in victory yesterday

#### DETAILS

that only a fool would dare to predict the outcome today. Rusedski kept his guard firmly up when asked to assess the contest. To the disbelief of his audience, he insisted: "It is just another match. I will play whoever is in my way before Hannover. On the day, it will just be down to who is the better player." Asked about his pre-

are there to be broken." So, can Henman derail the Rusedski Express? "He is playing the best tennis of his career but I do feel confident." Henman said. "I have a good record against him. He definitely goes into the match as favourite. There is pressure and expectation on him.

vious encounters with Hen-man, Rusedski said: "Records

Beating him three times has given me a belief, a confidence that my game is up against his. I'll have to accept that he'll serve several aces. which makes it extra important that I concentrate on winning my own serve."

Rusedski almost ruined the

Todd Martin, of the United States. A close match seemed unlikely given the way Rusedski opened against an opponent he had never beaten in four previous encounters.

script when he wavered badly

in his war of attrition with

If Martin, like an executioner. came clad in the all-black, it was Rusedski who tightened the noose, breaking the American with a stinging service return to establish a 2-0 lead. Three aces in the next game consolidated his advantage.

A tense second set seemed destined for a rie-break, although both players had their chances. Rusedski was obliged to fend off a break point, his first in this tournament, when 3-4 down, but he tamely netted an attempted backhand pass on the sole break point he conjured.

Then, in the tie-break, Rusedski's world fell apart as nerves betrayed him. He lost four consecutive points and his frustration was evident when he hurled his racket across the court.

Rusedski wobbled badly in the opening game of the third set, gifting Martin two doublefaults before pulling through. Suddenly, Martin threatened the once-impregnable Rused-ski service at will.

However, with Rusedski surviving by his fingertips, Martin positively gifted him some breathing space with two double faults in game four. Rusedski needed no second invite. He served out to prevail 6-1, 6-7, 6-3.

Henman, for his played an outstanding match to defeat Karol Kucera for the loss of just five games, in the process replicating his victory over the same opponent in Basie last week. It was a nearflawless performance from the Britain No 2, who dominated the gifted Slovakian from the opening exchanges. It is easy to understand why so many contemporaries pay homage to Henman's talent when he

plays like this. Once again, Henman failed to hit a satisfactory quota of first services — he registered 35 per cent against Kucera's 60. But that detail, together with the careless break he conceded late in the opening set, should not cloud a classy performance. Kucera is dangerous when allowed to run loose but Henman, rather



than snaffle his opponent, simply outshone him with a succession of winners.

It is little wonder that audiences around Europe love to watch Henman play. His powerful groundstrokes contrasted vividly with his delicate touch at the net; one backhand stop-volley from a full-blooded Kucera drive was the stuff of fantasy. On this sort of showing. Henman's world ranking of No 21 is insulting to his talents.

The conundrum he must confront remains his inability to play back-to-back matches of this calibre. Nevertheless, Rusedski will be mindful that his rival has hit form at exactly

### Hingis eyes revenge chance

straight sets in Filderstadt, Germany, yesterday to reach the semi-finals of the Porsche Cup. There, she will have the chance to avenge a recent defeat by Amanda Coetzer. The South African beat

Hingis in the semi-finals in Leipzig last week, only Hingis's third defeat of the year. "I'm really motivated for this match - I'd he really upset to lose twice in a row to the same player," Hingis said, after beating Maleeva 6-2, 6-3.

world No I, beat Manuela another Swiss teenager, Patty Schnyder, 6-2, 7-5, to earn her place in the last four. Schnyder, an i8-year-old lefthander, needed treatment for a muscle cramp in her left shoulder when trailing 4-3 in

the second set. When she returned after a three-minute break, Schnyder dropped her service but Coetzer, serving for the match, wasted her opportunity and Schnyder levelled at 55. Coetzer then saved two break points in the next game and benefited from a series of

MARTINA HINGIS. the . Coetzer, the No 5 seed, beat errors by Schnyder to clinch

In the other quarter-finals, Irina Spirlea, the No 8 seed, beat Arantxa Sánchez Vicario 7-5, 6-4 and will next meet Lisa Raymond, who ousted Naoko Sawamatsu 6-2, 6-3.

Nicolas Kiefer, of Germany, toppled the second seed, Marcelo Rios, of Chile, 6-1. 7-5 in the quarter-finals of the Heineken Open in Singapore yesterday and joins three Swedes, Thomas Johansson, Magnus Gustafsson and Mikael Tillstrom, in the last four. Kiefer plays Tillstrom.

## Hamed to give better value than Eubank

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

Naseem Hamed and Chris Eubank, compete for the at-tention of the full house of 13,000 at Sheffield Arena to-

Hamed's performance should prove more popular. His choreographed grand entrance is more meaningful than Eubank's because when the cheering has stopped the Sheffield featherweight gives full value in the ring, Eubank, on the other hand, favours flexitime, working only a minute or so of every round, preferring posing to throwing

Even at crucial moments he has held back. When he knocked Steve Collins to the canvas in the tenth round of their first encounter, instead of following up he simply stood back to admire his work, allowing Collins to recover and win on points. It should be no different tonight when Eubank faces Joe Calzaghe for the vacant World Boxing Organisation super-middleweigh

Of the two bouts, Eubank has the tougher one. His contest will appeal more to the boxing fans because they want to see if Calzaghe really is as good as he claims to be. The 25-year-old Welshman is unbeaten in 22 contests.

It is hard to see what Eubank can do against Calzaghe. The Brighton man used to have trouble making the weight three years ago when he was boxing as a super-middleweight. How much more must he be strugthat he is a light-heavyweight. He will have to shed at least a stone, if not a stone and a half. He will be drained at the weight which could mean more posing and less boxing than ever.

It should not be difficult for Caizaghe, who is quick on his feet and has fast hands, to dart in and out, piling up the points round by round. However, if by some miracle, Eubank can put up a proper fight it will be stand up to his blows.

Eubank, who called off a meeting on Wednesday with Calzaghe, as he was pressing the button for the National Lottery, did not turn up yesterday either. This time it was because his helicopter was held up. So long as Eubank shows up tonight, Calzaghe was not too bothered.

He may pose but I will be pressing him for every minute of every round. When I catch him properly he will go -

Hamed's bout against Jose Badillo, of Puerto Rico, is. unlikely to last more than three rounds but will be greatly appreciated by his followers. Badillo arrived only on Wednesday from California as a late replacement for Victor Llereno.

Frank Warren, the promoter, wanted quality opposition for Hamed and as he was unable to sign a world champion, he could do no better than bring in the No I WBO contender. But one has to be cautious of the WBO's rankings. No l contenders have a habit of appearing and disappearing without warn-ing, like ash dropping off a promoter's cigar. For instance Calzaghe moved to the No I mandatory position over-

Badillo is not ranked in the first 30 of the World Boxing Council. All the same, he does have the distinction of putting Tom Johnson on the floor.



Hamed: grand entrance

twice. "He was very unlucky to lose to Johnson," Warren said. Johnson was stopped by Hamed in eight rounds. Hamed said: "Badillo is one

of the best I have met. To do what he did two years' ago to Johnson, he was better than when I fought him, but I will stop him in three rounds."

But the challenger, sporting a black eye which his manager claimed to be a birthmark, is quietly confident of surprising everybody. He said: "I'm not intimidated by him. He is human like any other boxer. He's not anything from another world. I've seen him he has never lought anyone knock out many fighters, but

with my style and strength. "So he is not going to be able to have his way with me. I saw the fight with Daniel Alicea --Alicea could not finish the job lafter flooring Harned early, because of his inexperience. It will be different with me. I have never been on the floor."

Badillo is in for a new experience tonight.

RUGBY LEAGUE: VICE-CAPTAIN'S INJURY ADDS TO BRITAIN'S CASUALTY LIST

#### An evening with Kevin Keegan

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Times/Dillons forum on Thursday October 16 in London with Kevin Keegan, the former manager of Newcastle United, Keegan, who was also an England international footballer, will be the star speaker on a panel which will include Oliver Holt, football



correspondent of The Times. Among the topics for discussion are details of Keegan's sudden departure from Newcastle last season, his views on modern management, his return to football with Fulham and England's World Cup prospects.

The forum marks the publication of Keegan's My

Autobiography (Little Brown E16.99) and will be held at Westminster Central Hall. Storey's Gate, London SWI at 7.30pm. Admission price is £10 (concessions £7.50) and includes £2 off the price of the book. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to put questions to him.

#### THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Please send me ........... ticket(s) at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for The Times/ Dillons Forum with Kevin Keegan at 7.30pm on Thursday, October 16, at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1.

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#### FOOTBALL

#### McGhee reaches turning point

By Our Sports Staff

verhampton Wanderers manager, said yesterday that he felt under pressure as he prepared his side for the Nationwide League first division derby with Birmingham City at St Andrew's tomorrow. McGhee believes that the visits to Birmingham and then to his former club, Reading, which follows in midweek present "watersheds" Wolves' season, not simply for his team but for himself. Although McGhee is under

no immediate threat regarding his own future, with Sir Jack Hayward, the club's chairman and multimillionaire backer, sympathetic to the iniury list that has hampered the team's progress so far this season, he knows that defeats would leave his team in the lower half - the wrong half of the table.

"In practical terms. I don't think it will be the end of the world in terms of our eventual hopes for this season if we weren't to win the next two games," he said. "However, the reality of the situation is that not everybody will perceive it that way. I know my squad and I am convinced they will come through for me and do the business once we get enough people back from injury, but not everyone will view it like that - and with every bad result you get, the pressure builds. On Sunday morning, we could be something like seventeenth, but after playing, we could be around seventh if we get the

MARK McGHEE, the Wol- are watersheds. If things work out, we could possibly go back to Molineux next weekend [for the match against Swindon Town] in the top six or seven, maybe only two or three points off the top three, If things don't work out, then we could return there under the sort of pressure that people are talking about. "We don't expect to be at the

top of the league with the problems we've had, but we do expect to be hanging on to the coat-tails of those who are. Three points at Birmingham would achieve that." Wolves have signed Paul

Simpson, the Derby County winger, on a month's loan with a view to the signing becoming permanent. Simp-son, 31, is valued at around

Paul Peschisolido has rejected the offer of an improved contract from West Bromwich Albion. Peschisolido, 26, had said earlier in the week that he was "very close" to signing a two-year extension to his current deal, which has 18 months to run.

Scotland Under-21 slipped to an embarrassing deleat by Latvia Under-21 at Living-stone yesterday, losing 4-2 despite the Larvians having their goalkeeper. Aleksanders Kolinko, dismissed in the first half for a head butt. lain Anderson, of Dundee, and David Graham, of Rangers. scored the Scots' goals. The game proved to be traumatic for David Mathieson, 19, the Queen of the South goalkeeper, who was at fault for each of the visitors' goals.

### Betts to miss Australia series

Brisbane Broncos ...... 22 Auckland Warriors...... 16

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WHEN the injury crisis facing Great Britain looked like it could not get much worse, Denis Betts, the vice captain, yesterday tore a shoulder muscle on his last appearance for Auckland Warriors and was added to the absentee list for the British Gas series against Australia in three weeks. After the losses of Shaun

Edwards, Tony Smith and Francis Cummins, and the probable absence of Gary Connolly and Jason Robinson, Britain have now been denied their most experienced forward. As he requires surgery, Betts could miss the start of next season back at Wigan, and he might be out for six

Betts lasted 30 minutes after

high challenge by Andrew Gee, the Brisbane prop, in Auckland's world club championship semi-final defeat at ANZ Stadium. "It was a knock on the shoulder and it seemed to get gradually worse," Betts

Betts had been an integral part of Andy Goodway's plans. The Britain coach will be less inclined to switch Andy



Farrell from the back row, which he was considering in an attempt to resolve difficulties at half back. Should the Australian. Rugby League deny the appeal for Connolly and Robinson to be freed from their contractual obligations, British misery will be just about complete.

said: "The series was always going to be a challenge and the loss of Denis makes it an even bigger one. But these are the fortunes of rugby league and, with Denis out, another player could easily make his mark.\* Betts, at 28 the elder statesman of the side, was poised to overtake Cliff Watson's record of 30 appearances as a forward for Britain, at Wembley

hall League technical director,

on November I. In a tempestuous, but thrilling encounter. Brisbane lived on their nerve ends to reach the world championship final at Auckland next Friday, after

they had trailed by 16-10. After a try-saving tackle by Han-cock on Endacott, Brisbane responded with tries by Kevin Walters and Ben Walker, the former London Broncos scrum half, who had opened Brisbane's account with a visionary chip and chase, to underline their overall Joe Lydon, the Rugby Foot-

superiority. . it has set up a possible rematch of the Australasian Super League grand final, which Brisbane won, should Cronulla Sharks beat Hunter Mariners in the second semifinal today.

Min with Africa

. . . . .

- 14 A

3.7

SCORIERS: Brisbane Broncos: Tries: Walker (2), Tallis, Watters, Goelet Wistors (3), Auckland Wentons: Tries: Oudstryn (2), Endacott, Goels: Ridge (2)

BRISBANE BRONCOS: D Locker, M Davere, D Smith, S Renoul, W Saltor, K Walters, B Walker, S Wolsche, J Plath, A Gea, B Thorn, G Tallis, P Ryan, Subshinger, M Hancock, T Carroll, P Lee, P Carpicava. AUCKLAND WARRIORS: M Ridge; S Hoppe, A Swarn, S Endacott, L Cudenryt, G Agamu, S Jones, B Malam, S Eru, J Yagana, S Kearney, D Belts, L Swarn, Substitutes: M Ellis, D Belley, A Guttenbell, A Tuthraveve.

## Bell steps down to focus on youth

By CHRISTOPHER INVINE

GARY HETHERINGTON, the chief executive of Leeds Rhinos, raised various names yesterday as a possible successor to Dean Bell who announced that he was stepping down as head coach after two years and taking up a new post as head of youth development at the club.

Hetherington recently met Graham Murray, the coach of Hunter Mariners, who are expected to be dishanded when a compromise is reached between the Australasian Super League and the-Australian Rugby League (ARL), Murray is the favourite for the job, but

Hetherington, intriguingly, produced a piece of paper with 13 other names on it. He said there was no urgency to make an appointment and that he was open to

uggestions, even to the point of pitching in Ellery Hanley's name. Two other former Great Britain coach-

es, Phil Larder and Malcolm Reilly, who had a brief spell in charge at Leeds in the late Eighties, were mentioned, but the compensation that Newcastle Knights, the ARL champions, would demand for Reilly is likely to be too high.

Hetherington said that whoever was appointed by Christmas would have "the best job in the world". It has often been a poisoned chalice. Bell, who grew into the position after a difficult first season, was offered an extended contract for next season, but decided to step down for personal reasons. He has a three-year contract in his new role, but Hetherington did not rule out a return by Bell to the post

With 10 per cent of the club's annual gross income — £250,000 — committed to community programmes and youth development, Bell's appointment to harness elite talent is an all-too-rare example of a club tackling the root cause of the domestic game's failings compared with Australia.

The single biggest problem is the lack of focus we give to the development of young players. That's where the Australian game is far superior." Hetherington

Less than a month after he became chairman. Roy Waudby has left Hull Sharks, who have won promotion to the Super League next season. Two other directors have been asked to leave by the dub's owner, David Lloyd, the former tennis player.

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER II 1997

Montgomerie succumbs to Faxon and fatigue at World Match Play Championship

## Els gives wayward Woosnam brush-off

BY JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT

ERNIE ELS brushed aside Ian Woosnam in the second round of the Toyota World Match Play Championship at Wentworth yesterday. On a glorious autumn day, when there were a few sleepy flies in the air. Woosnam presented little more of a problem to the defending champion than one of these flies might have done. Els swatted the Welshman without difficulty, winning 7 and 6. This was almost, but not quite, as heavy a defeat as Woosnam suffered at the hands of Fred Couples in the

recent Ryder Cup. Woosnam's golf these days is very erratic. After his good form in beating Jesper Parnevik on Thursday came his bad play in this thumping defeat by Els. Consistency was never Woosnam's strong suit,

#### DETAILS

TODAY'S TEE-OFF TIMES: Semi-finals: 08.30 and 12.45: Els v Price 08.48 and 12.45: Els v Price 08.48 and 13.00: Faxon v Sngh. TELEVISION: Today: BBC1: In Grandstand, Iron 1.05om (highspits 12.20am) Tomorrow: BBC2-in Sunday Grandstand.

but this inability to play in anything like the same way two days running is becoming tiresome to Woosnam.

"One day is good, one day is bad." he said. "You can't play like this. You have to be consistent in this game. I have been like this for a number of years now."

Els now faces Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, who comfortably beat Frank Nobilo in a rematch of a meeting that they had in a matchplay event in the United States in the summer. Els won then and Price knows he will have his hands full today.

"It just seemed that whatever I did, he did better," Price said. "This course is perfectly suited to him because he is a good driver of the ball, a good long-iron player and he has a wonderful touch around the

If Woosnam's defeat was no



Els, relishing the perfect conditions, aims at the 8th on his way to a comfortable defeat of an erratic Woosnam at Wentworth yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

surprise, then Colin Montgomerie's by Brad Faxon was. Montgomerie, who said later that he was suffering from flu, got weaker as the day wore on. The further the match went, the more Faxon did what Faxon does best - namely he stuck, limpet-like, to his man and holed some huge putts until Montgomerie was beaten 2 and 1.

Faxon has a friendly, freckled face, upon which a wide smile looks rather engaging. Indeed, Faxon is an engaging man, a good talker, probably a

rewarding dinner companion. After his victory, his world Was rosy.

"It is very satisfying to beat Colin Montgomerie." Faxon said. "He is one of the best players in the world and I got him today. I feel great about

Montgomerie looked to be in a commanding position when he went two holes up on the 24th after Faxon missed the green. Montgomerie had played a brilliant 50-yard pitch from a grassy bunker on the right of the 22nd, the ball dying by the holeside, and then chipped in from 15 feet on the short 23rd. To the uninitiated eye, there seemed be no sign of Montgomerie's flu, nor of the fatigue after nine successive weeks' play of which he was

to talk later. Yet Faxon had noticed something. He felt that Montgomerie's play was on the turn on the homeward nine in the morning and he knew that the longer he could keep the Scot at work, the foot putt across the 25th green was a good start. Another, a few feet longer on the 27th green, also for a half, was a similarly effective blow.

Then Montgomerie missed a six-foot putt on the 28th, Faxon hit a crisp iron close to the flag on the 29th before claiming birdies at the next two holes as well. Now Montgomerie must have felt exhausted. On the 34th, he had a chance to get back into the match after Faxon had driven into a bunker, but his

have run me into the ground," Montgomerie said. "This order of merit thing is killing me, but going for five in a row might never happen again. I have had no breaks. It is not just tournaments, it is company days on my so-called days off. My batteries are run well down."

"The last couple of weeks

There are a few people who would like the chance to play as much golf as Montgomerie does and to make as much money as he does from the game, both from playing it

and from promotional deals. Montgomerie has won just over £600,000 in prize-money this year. One tournament remains and, if he is to win the Volvo Order of Merit for a fifth year in a row, he must maintain the lead he holds over Bernhard Langer, at present £45,000.

All was not gloom last night as he returned home for an unexpected weekend off. His wife. Eimear, is pregnant and a third Montgomerie, to join the girls. Olivia and Venetia. is

#### IN BRIEF

#### Reformer oversees choice for **RFU** post

SIR Pat Lowry, whose recom-mendations formed so influential a basis for the reform of the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) administrative structure, will chair a five-man panel which will select a new chief executive of the union (David Hands writes). Tony Hallett resigned as the RFU secretary in August and his successor will be chosen by a combination of three independent businessmen and two RFU officers, Cliff Brittle and Fran Cotton.

Nigel Wray, chairman of the Burlord Group, whose investment has meant so much to Saracens, joins Lowry and Sir John Egan, chief ports Authority, on the panel. which will review candidates considered by a head-hunting company.

#### Mosley again

Motor racing: Max Mosley was re-elected president of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) yesterday. The Briton was re-elected for a second four-year term by "a record attendance" at FIA's Paris headquarters of delegates from 109 clubs representing 82 member countries. a FIA spokesman said.

#### Grissom shines

Basebail: The Cleveland Indians levelled the American League championship series at I-1 last night with a 5-4 victory over the Orioles in Baltimore. Marquis Grissom. the former Atlanta Braves outfielder, hit a three-run home run in the eighth inning for the winning margin.

#### Neumann leads

Golf: Liselotte Neumann, of Sweden, returned a fourunder-par 68 yesterday to take a three-stroke lead halfway into the Takara World Invitational tournament in Sanbu, Japan. She birdied the first three holes and the 6th and 18th. Yuko Motoyama, the leader after the first round, slipped to second at 140 with a round of 73.

#### Smith quits

mer Hampshire and England batsman, has resigned as chief executive of the Western Australian Cricket Association and will start work for a British-based sports hospitality business in December.

#### Hendry honour

Snooker: Stephen Hendry re ceived the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) player of the year award, for the seventh time in eight years, in London yesterday.

#### Spice appointed

Hockey: Chris Spice was confirmed yesterday as perfor-mance director and Barry Dancer as men's national coach by the English Hockey Association. Both are from the Australian Institute of Sports hockey programme in Perth. Western Australia.

gramme. In addition, the RYA

is expecting separate lottery

grants to be announced next

week for its windsurfing, Tor-

nado catamaran and match

After a strong performance

at the last Olympic Games in

Savannah, where the British

team emerged with two silver

medals and two fourth places.

the outlook for sailors at the

Sydney Games in 2000 and for

Athens four years later looks

John Derbyshire, the RYA

Olympic manager, said: "This

racing programmes.



Eddie Brown, of KFJ Resourcing, plays the 1st at Dalmahoy yesterday

#### Buxton makes most of good fortune RESULTS: 84: Shandon Leisure 82: Thermal Transfer (Scotland) Ltd. 81: Strathmore Mineral Water Co Ltd. 80: Sysdnil Ltd, Co-operative insurance Society 78: Saveheat risulations Ltd: Scotl-Moncreft Downe Wilson 77: Multicore Solders Ltd. Skipton Building Society 78: NFJ Resourcing Ltd: Holland & Sherry; United Distillers and here we are winning." he said. By MEL WEBB "I can't believe it." Rankeillor also had a glazed look as tournament

HE WAS the luckiest main in Edinburgh. Mike Buxton was his name, and he got into a team playing in the Scotland regional final of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge yesterday by the unlikeliest route. He crept into the team by the back door, then played a leading role in an unexpected victory.

Buxton played in the golf day organised last month by Jimmy Rankeillor, the owner of Shandon Leisure, a snooker, leisure and fitness complex in Edinburgh, but failed to cover himself in glory. finishing a distant seventh. He had played in the national final of the Challenge in 1995, but thought that he had missed the boat by a mile this time. Then fate stepped in.

Craig White, who finished fourth in the golf day, could not play in the team. He was on holiday in Las Vegas. So were the men who finished fifth and sixth. Step this way, Mr Buxton. Given only three



75: NHS UK 74: BP Chamicals, Orion Engineering Services Ltd, Tubular Industries Scotland Ud 73: Expro North Sea Ltd 72: Roce Hall Hospital, Robert Moms & Scotland 11: Sealorths Travel; Barwell Enlerprises & St. Scotlish Oils Ltd; Coutts Career Consultants 68: Scotlish Chcket Union 67: Peugeol Finance, Standard Life Assurance Co 64: Consort Foodservices.

days' notice that he would be required, Buxton rearranged his

windy, rainswept Dalmahoy. There he joined Rankeillor, Jimmy Ewing and John Williamson in a victory with 84 Stableford points, two ahead of Thermal Transfer (Scotland) with Strathmore Mineral Water third. Shandon were the last four on the course, whipping victory from under the noses of

calendar so that he could play at

their nearest rivals. Buxton, an eight-handicapper, had the golfing skills to help his team and Ewing, a 13-handicap member of Dalmahoy, the local

FOR THE RECORD

knowledge. Together they an-chored their two two-balls to an impressive performance.

Buxton gave Williamson, his partner, and himself the best of starts on each nine. At the par-five 10th, their first, he hit a driver then put a two-wood on the green. Two putts from 60 feet gave him a hirdie. At the 1st, also a par-five, his drive was followed by a two-wood, this time just short of the green, a chip and one putt from 20 feet for

another birdie. Williamson was still wearing an incredulous look two hours afterwards, "I was absolute rubbish.

Women: Middleweight (undcr 664g) K Howey (GB) bi A von Reforst-i (Geri oppor Wetterweight (under 61kg) S Vanden-hende (Fr) bi G Vandecaveye (Bel) lopon

RUGBY LEAGUE

Brisbane Broncost Triest B Walker 2 Tallis, Walkers Goalst B Walker 3 Auckland Warners, Triest Oudenryn 2, Endacoli Goalst Redge 2

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: First leg (Sounampton to Cape Town Positions (at 00 005MT vecterday, with miles to Cape Town 1 I movation hyaemer (Nori 3,094.7 miles to filips); 2 Ment Cup (Monacou at 186 miles, 3 EF Language (Swel 24.4 Still Cur (GS) 154.3; 5 Chesse Racing (105.179; 6, Tochata (US) 355.4.7; America's Challenge (US) 389.5, 8, Sweash Mistch (Sael 419.7.9 EF Education (Swel 590; 10 BrunelSunergy (Holl) 610.5.

SPEEDWAY

IPSWICH, B#y Sanders International: 1 T Rickardsson (Ipswich) 2 Claus (Ipswich), 3. C Boyce (Poole)

SQUASH

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Irwin Mitchell Hallamshire 2 Armourcolour Priory Edgbaston 3 (Hallamshire name: first P Lord to Zuban Jahan 9-2, 9-0 9-0 J Dale

lost to C Leach 5-9 2-5 9-5 5-9 N Matthew lost to S Handley 8-10, 9-7, 1-9, 1-9 N Walt bi L Rawlins 9-5, 6-9, 9-1, 9-4, C Beaumont

TENNIS

lost to P Nicholl 7-9, 3-9, 6-9)

22 Auckland

World club championship

Semi-linal

the points that put Shandon into the final came from Ewing. He left it until the 18th before he produced his big number, and even then it was a scrambled effort. He produced a mighty hook off the 18th tee that landed on the 17th fairway. From there he had only the right side of the green at which to

officials outlined what was in store

for the team in the national final at

La Manga next month. "This is amazing," he said. "The way we

played, we didn't think we had any

Buxton was the team's top scorer

with 35 points off his own ball, but

chance of winning.™

aim, got it there with a nine-fron. then hit a sand-wedge to a foot to set himself up for a gross par four, net three, and three points.

Ewing was totally unashamed of his unorthodox route to a par. He firmly believes that it's not how, it's

the old saw more appropriate.

how many that counts. Never was

#### SAILING

#### Lottery windfall raises Olympic medal hopes

By Edward Gorman, sailing correspondent RYA's youth sailing pro-

BRITAIN'S Olympic team yesterday received more than a fourfold increase in its annual funding with the announcement by the Lottery Sports Fund that it is to give the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) an annual grant of up to £1.1 million.

The money represents a significant injection of funds into elite sailing in this country. It should make it much easier for Britain's leading Olympic yachtsmen and women to concentrate on winning medals, rather than fighting off penury.
Until now, the Olympic

squad has survived on around £180,000 a year, half of which was provided by the RYA itself with the remainder supplied by the Sports Council.

This has fallen a long way short of what was required and put British Olympic sailors way down the international pecking order in terms of

The announcement vesterday covers the next 12 months and will be followed at the end of that period by a further large donation for the following three years. The initial

funding represents an opportunity for our elite performers to turn metal into medals." □ Merit Cup and EF Language have gained ground on

Innovation Kvaerner, the leader of the Whitbread Round the World Race. Yesterday. Innovation's lead over Merit Cup was reduced to 16.6 miles with EF Language a further 5.9 miles behind as the yachts race towards the Ilha da Trindade, the second way point.

The British entrant, Silk Cut, has also made up ground and now trails by 147 miles. with Chessic Racing 27 miles

#### CRICKET

#### **Bold Azhar continues** to deny South Africa

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

HALF-CENTURIES by inzamam-ul-Haq and Azhar Mahmood saved Pakistan from embarrassment as the first Test match against South Africa ended in a draw in Rawalpindi yesterday. Pakistan, leading by 53 after

Australia

the first innings, collapsed to 80 for five when they batted again. But Inzamam and Azhar calmed any Pakistani fears with a sixth-wicker partnership of 68 in 69 minutes. When bad light forced an early closure, with 12.2 overs

Earlier, South Africa were dismissed for 403 in reply to Pakistan's first innings 456.

remaining, the home team

Inzamam was out after scoring a hard-hitting 56 that included ten boundaries from 82 balls, while Azhar, the man of the match, followed up his 128 not out in the first innings with an impressive unbeaten 50 to become the first Pakistan batsman to score a century and a half-century on his

Azhar's innings was spiced with eight fours and a six. "To he honest, both times I went to the crease. Pakistan were in mouble. But, thank God, I rose to the occasion," Azhar said. "I

want to be a match-winner for Pakistan."

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, said that be-lore he announced his team for the Test, the pitch had grass on it. "But when we came again, it was shaved off," he said.

"Nevertheless, we restricted Pakistan to 216 for six on the first day, but Azhar Mahmood, Waqar Younis and Mushtaq Ahmed played outstandingly."

Jacques Kallis and Pat Symoox had given South Africa hope when they each took two wickets after Allan Donald had removed the opener. Saeed Anwar.

Mushtaq Ahmed, the leg spinner, took three of the four wickets to fall after South Africa had resumed on their

overnight 359 for six. Azhar made the initial breakthrough when he had Shaun Poliock smartly caught by the substitute wicketkeeper, Mohammad Wasim, for 48.

Pollock shared a seventhwicket partnership of 106 with Dave Richardson, who was denied his ninth Test century when he ran out of partners and finished on 45 not out.

Polakovs 9 Slesaruls, 21 Pelcas 54 Lidats 57 Sem off A Kolinko (Latvia Linder-21) 29 (at Livingston) OTHER MATCHES: Group two: Georgia 5 Poland 1 (in Toilis) Group fivet Russia 3 Bulgana 2 (in Moscow) Group six: Czech Republic 2 Slovakia 3 (in Pribram)

**FOOTBALL** 

Republic 2 Slovakia 3 (in Pribram)

Thursday's late results

AVON INSURANCE COMMINATION: Pirst
Mislan Norwich (Crystal Palace 2.
FA YOUTH CUP: Second qualifying round: Sitingbourne 1 Welling 1; Si Albans
2 Stanway 1, Bromley 2 Croydon 3
Replays: Harlow 0 Great Wakering 2, Horncharch 1 Wertbley 2.
FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE Primmer division: Oundail' 8 Kilemny 0

STIRLINGSHIRE CUP: Final. Alica 1
Histor 2:
SPANISH CUP: Second round, first leg: Bactejo: 0 Merida 0
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Brazil 2 Morocco 0 (in Belam)
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Fuji Film Trophy: Second round: Great Yarmouth 1 Havering 3 (aet): East Berishhre 3 Isle of Wight 1, Bridgwaler 2 East Conwell 4

BASEBALL MAJOR LEAGUE: Play-olfs: American League: Baltimore 4 Claveland 5 (bact-of-seven senes (ed. 1-1)

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Group A: Real Madrid 77 Olympialos (Gr) 78: Limoges (Fr) 70 CSKA Moscon 66. Group B: PACK Salonica (Gr) 85 Bereition Trenso (t) 82. Porto 61 Tunk Telecom 76. Group C: Ufkerspor (Tur) 67 Bereslons 65; Kinder Bologna (t) 77 Partizon Belgrade (Yug) 72 Group D: AEK Athens 70 Cibona Zegreb (Cro) 55. Olympija Ljubljenn (Slovania) 78 Alba Bertin 72

COUNTY MATCH: Nottinghamshire bit Hertlordshire 165-148 (at Riverain) CYCLING SAN SEBASTIAN: World road race championships: Junior man (12 ltm) 1, C D'Amore (ti) 2hr 54mm 49cec, 2, M Bot (Switz); 3, M Seiumets (Est), 4, R Sentjons (Holl), 5, M Kessler (Ger) all same time. Junior women (97.5km); 1, M van Mols (Holl) fin Somn 18sec, 2, N Braendi (Switz); 3, S Andersson (Swe) all same time; 4, G Gruodyke (Lith) at Tsec, 5, M Cagigas (Sp) same time BORDEAUX: Open Novotel Perner paint tournament: Leaders after two rounds

CRICKET First Test match Pakistan v South Africa RAWALPINDI (line) day of five). Paristan days with South Africa PAKISTAN: First Innings 456 (Action Mahmood 128 not out, Ali Naqvi 115)

tMoin khen not out . . . Extres (b 2, lb 2, nb 10) . . .... 

BOWLING: Donald 11-4-25-1; Police's 8-1-22-0; McMillen 8-1 24-0, Kalles 7-4-1-21-2 Symbox 16-2-56-2, Cronje 6-1-29-1 Cultinan 1-0-2-0 SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings G Kinsten ciljaz b Seqlam . A M Beicher c Mohammad Ramzani

b Sequain
J H Kallis tow b Saqlain
D J Cultinan tow b Soqlain
W J Conje e tips b Acher
B M Moditian e litz b Saqlain
S M Poticok e Mohammad Wasim S M Potock e Mohammad Wasim
b Achar
10 J Richardson not out
P L Symoox st Michammad Wasim
b Mushtan Ahmed
A A Donald c Saeed to Mushtan Ahmed
B N Schultz low b Mushtan Ahmed
Edras (b 20, b 9, w 4, nb 15)

Man of the match: Azhar Mahmood.

Umpires S Venkataraghavan (India) and Jeved Akhter (Pakislan). ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Na-robi: Kernya 347-3 /k Obeno 144, D Chudasama 122), Bangladesh 197 /A Khan 61; A kanm 5-33) Kenya win by 150 runs

BORDEAUX: Open Novotel Permer pains tournament: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and tretand unless sated) 133: J Remesy (Fi) and R Jacquein (Fr) 64 (9) 135: S Lura (Sp) and J Rivoso (Sp) 64 (7) 136: P Heatoloin (Swet end P Spotand Swet) 65, 72 138: D Howell and S Cage 66, 72 1 (38) and M Carrasco (Sp) 64 (74 A Hunter and G Onr 65, 73, 139: M Farry (Fin and M Bee 66, 73, 14, Guepy (Fin) and M Besanceney (Fin) 64, 75 J van de Veide (Fin and B Lane 65, 74, A Ferstrand (Swet) 68 (73) and C Valoration (Swet) 66, 73 140: S Bettesteros (Sp) and J M Olazabel (Sp) 67, 73, W Rick, (Austral C Mason 68, 74, 141: D Hospell (Sp) and F Farraud (Fin 69, 73, 142: A Cejha (Ger) 137: F Lawre and R Darramod (Fin 69, 73, 142: A Cejha (Ger) 137: F Lawre and R 7 Tamaud (Fin 69, 73, 142: A Cejha (Ger) 137: F Lawre and R 7 Tamaud (Fin 69, 73, 142: A Cejha (Ger) 137: F Leader (Fin 66, 77, 147: D Hospell (Sp) 137: F Leader (Fin 66, 77, 147: D Hospell (Sp) 137: F Leader (Fin 66, 77, 147: D Hospell (Sp) 137: F Leader (Fin 66, 77) M Lurniciti and J Robson 65, 77; R Lee and M Darts 66, 77; WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia: Mischelob

Davis 65, 77
WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia: Michelob championship: Leading first-round scores (Unded States unless stated) 63: D Waldon 64: B Bryann, 65: G Myatr 68: K Triplett, S Gump, L Clamonts B Guigley 67: N Lancassor F Couples D Duyal T Armour, C Strange, G Halfberg, M Christo, B Hughes (Aus), 68: J Smoletar J D Blake, D Sicoldon Jr. T Bryum, J Sluman M Bredley, J Leonard C Penry D Sutherland J Wilson, S Rendail, O Browne S Lowery P Stewart, P Blackmar, D Toms, C Smith, J P Hayes, Other soons: 74: A Lyto (GE) Fayes Other score: 74: A Lyo Laci: SAN PAOLO, Italy: PGA European Chall-enge Tour. San Paolo Vita Open: Leaders after three rounds (Great Britain and beland unless stated): 201: H Nystore (Swe) 65 66, 67 202: FC 68 (Sp.) 70, 67 65 203: N Canssim (US) 66, 68, 69, 204: T Panchin [Fi] 69 70, 65, M Birci (Augustia) 71 84, 69, 205 kt. Instances (Fi) 70, 66, 67 M

54, 63 205, N Jaak mides (Fr) 70, 58, 67 M Miller 69, 69, 67, M Flouroli (II) 59, 71, 65, O Edmand (Fr) 69, 69, 67, M Goggin (Aust 68, 70, 67 ICE HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Bultalo :

NATIONAL LEMOCE (MICL) Bollado ; Washington 2, Philadelphia 3 Prasburgh 1 Chroago 1 Tampa Boy 4, Si Louis 3 Lot Angeles 2 (OT) Calgary 1 New Yorl Rangott 1 (OT), Cobrado 3 San Jose 2 Vancouver 2 Foronto 2 (OT) JUDO

PARIS: World chempionships: Finals: Men: Middleweight (under 88/g). Joon Ki Young (S Kor) bt M Spittla (Ge) waza an on cenatly. Wetterweight (under 78kg). Cho in Chut (S kor) bt D Bouras (Fri oppon

SINGAPORE: Men's lournament: Quarter-finals: M Tilistrom (Swe) bt M Damm (Ca) 7-6 6-1 M Gustafsson (Swe) bt J Statk (US) 6-7 6-2, 6-2 N keler (Sen) bt M Rics (Chile) 6-1 7-5 T Johansson (Swe) bt J Couner (US) 3-6 6-3 6-2

Counter (US) 3-0 6-3 6-3 F.

Quarter-finals. I Spilea (Rom) bt A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) 7-5, 6-1; A Coezer (SA) bt P Schinyder (Swizz) 6-2 7-5 Mrgs (Swizz) 6-2 6-3 L Raymond (US) bt N Sawamatsu (Japan) 6-2 6-3 L Raymond (US) 6-2 6-BIRKENHEAD: LTA speller fournament Men: Final: B Cowan (GB) to G Elsenesr (B0) 6-3, 7-6

grant includes within it a £100,000 provision for the farther back. In victory or defeat, German remains the best in Formula One

## Schumacher passes the test of true greatness

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN IN SUZUKA

DARKNESS had fallen on Suzuka. Spectators sat in the eerie shadows cast by the illuminated fairground and stared across the track at a row of garages that exhibited few signs of life. It was a strange ritual, rewarded only by a glimpse of a familiar figure in the maze of packing cases at the back of the Ferrari pit.

Michael Schumacher was chatting to a small group of mechanics. swaying gently as he emphasised an obscure technical point with sharp stabbing movements of his right hand. Since he had no need to be there - Jacques Villeneuve was in his hotel room, reading a biography of the singer, Jim Morrison - his presence was significant.

Villeneuve may well become world champion tomorrow, by finishing ahead of him in the Japanese Grand Prix, but Schumacher will still be

#### SUZUKA DETAILS

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (sher filteen receat)
Drivers: 1. Villeneuve 77pts; 2. M Schumecher 68; 3.
Frentzon 35, 4. Alexi 34, 6. Coutthard 30; 6. Berger 27, Fischella 20 8, tiver 18: 9. Pans 16: 10 equal.
Halidnen and Herbert 14, 12. R Schumecher 13, 13, Hiddinen and Herbert 14, 12. R Schumecher 13, 13, Hiddinen and Herbert 14, 12. R Schumecher 13, 13, Hiddinen and 15 Trull fit. Prost Mugen-Hordea, 3; 17 equal. Sald, Nakano and Ome 2, 20, N Lerni (f. Sauter-Percona), 1. Complications: 1, Wilsoms-Renaul 11/2, 2. Fernan 86, 3, Benetion-Renaul 62, 4, MoLaren-Mercedes 44, 5, Jorden-Percona, 15, 8, Rross-Hugger Horde 21; 7, Sauter-Percona, 15, 8, Anoss-Yamaha 9, 9, Stewart-Ford 6, 10, Tyrref-ford 2.

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: Tomorrow: Japanese (Suzuka) Oct 28: European (Jene2)

unchallenged as the uncrowned king of Formula One. It is not his fault that he is the likely victim of motor sport's central inconsistency, the subjugation of talent to technology.

Schumacher commands universal respect for his ability to redefine his talent, the type that flourishes once in a generation. He has a champion's nature, a tycoon's income and a refugee's work ethic - but, ultimately, he is just another component. Ferrari's failure to give him a car to match the potency of a Williams-Renault dooms him to under-

Statistics are frequently manipulated according to taste in Formula One, where image is all, yet Schumacher has unarguably exceeded his natural limits in winning 26 of his first 100 grands prix. In the typically precise terms of Ross Brawn, the English engineer who he helped to install as Ferrari's technical director: "Michael wins races he should not do and does not lose races he should win."

He is an ideal physiological specimen, with a low resting pulse rate and a bull neck that is hidden by an angular chin. This is especially important at a circuit such as Suzuka, where a corner like 130 R. taken flat in sixth gear at 160mph. involves a driver pulling 3.2G. In such circumstances, it feels as if his helmeted head weighs 50lb.

Yet it is mental discipline that marks Schumacher as a man for the ages. He excels in adversity, thinks faster on his feet than any other driver. He has an academic's ability to distil information and a cardsharp's sense of timing.

Again, it is instructive to draw on Brawn's unique insight, acquired when they won two world championships together at Benetton. "Michael is ice cool," he said. "His composure is the one thing that makes me believe a third title is still possible."

He may not have entered legend in the manner of Ayrton Senna, whose premature death has given his reputation the sheen of perfection, but Schumacher has had a Messianic impact at Ferrari. He has dominated a disparate team by the force of his rage to excel. Should Villeneuve win the title, the failure will be felt on an acutely personal level.

Mechanics, the poor bloody infantry of the sport, instinctively align themselves to the German driver. They are in awe of his ability and admire the passion that prompts him to monopolise test sessions at the expense of Eddie Irvine, his teammate. He clearly empathises with them and gives them the unusual courtesy of common respect.

His rationale — "you win together and lose together" — is simple but effective. When Schumacher works late, as he did here on Thursday night, he sends a powerful message that he rejects the institutionalised cynicism of the sport that has enriched him beyond his dreams.

He is a consummate politician, but feels no need to apologise for retaining the enthusiasm he felt as a sixyear-old karting champion. "I am a human being," he has said. "I just happen to have a certain talent to drive. There is a big organisation behind me, involving many people who enable me to do what I do best, and I don't want to be fêted as something special."



Leaving nothing to chance. Schumacher studies a television monitor during practice at Suzuka yesterday

rationalise and communicate the signals sent by the merest twitch. Brawn's predecessor, John Barnard, who has taken responsibility for the technical development of the Arrows

team, speaks from experience. "It's a kind of mental attitude, a total commitment," he said. "He has this innate ability to go quickly, which means he is able to concentrate on what the car is doing a lot more. He can recount clearly every corner around the lap and this feedback is clear and sharp. It's what all the

But special he is. Engineers value really good ones have got. Alain Prost memory. He can humanise the something a week after it had technology that surrounds him. happened and he'd still give you the exact picture."

Schumacher has a unique driving style. He consciously pushes his car fractionally over its natural limits as enters a corner and brakes only after he has passed the last mark on the tarmac, where other cars have bottomed out under braking. His speed comes from his ability to hold a nervous car on the edge of adhesion.

In the wet, the true gauge of courage, technique and reflexes, he is matchless. His victories in Spain and Belgium earlier this year emphasised

Si Inter Gloucester Old Boys v Maiorn-head, Leunceston v Barnsteple; Malson v High Wycombin, Pencance and Newlyn v Berry Hill, Torquay v Stroud LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Pirst di-

the gulf in class that is disguised by his analytical mind, his matchless was the same. You could talk about the championship table. Villeneuve was exposed by circumstance, unable to respond to changing conditions. Few doubt his capacity to confront

the challenge of clinching the championship in Japan, but nobody really believes it will offer conclusive proof of superiority over Schumacher. The German is already regarded as one of the greats, a name worthy of mention in the same breath as Senna, Fangio and Clark.

He knows he is the best. We know he is the best. However hard it is for him to admit it to himself, Jacques Villeneuve probably knows Michael Schumacher is the best.

RUGBY UNION FIXTURES

JUDO

#### Gold for Howey ends blue period

FROM JOHN GOODBODY

KATE HOWEY revived Great Britain's sagging reputation in the sport when she took the middleweight title with a display of explosive skill at the world championships here yesterday.

After the disappointment of the Olympics in Atlanta when Britain, so successful in previous Games, failed to win a medal in the sport -Howey. 24, from Andover. admitted that there had been extra incentive for her to win.

As she stepped on to the mat for the final against Anja von Rekowski, of Germany, she remembered her previous world championship final four years ago, when she was ahead with seven seconds left only to be tumbled to the mat by her Chinese opponent. "I thought it was time to erase those seven seconds," Howey

She attacked from the start against an opponent who had met her in a competition in Germany four weeks ago. She knocked von Rekowski to the mat with an inner thigh throw and, then, after Imin 25sec of dominance, hurled the German to the ground by grab-bing one leg and wheeling her over her shoulder.

Howey had finally fulfilled the potential that she displayed in taking the world junior title in 1990 and an Olympic bronze medai in Barcelona. She has both the strength with which to sit down on a chair and rise up again with 150 kilos on her back and the speed to run 100

metres in under 13 seconds.

She had looked impressive all day and was at her most destructive in the semi-final against Min Sun Cho, of South Korea, the winner of the Olympic and two world titles in the past four years.

Before the Korean had set tled into any rhythm. Howey twice attempted her inner thigh throw, which Cho just evaded. Then Howey scooped up her opponent's legs in a movement like a front-on rueby tackle, lifted Cho to hip height and dumped her on her back for an ippon, judo's equivalent of a knock-out. The contest had lasted 36 seconds.

After the 1992 Olympics, Howey had moved up to light-heavyweight, and it was only after her disappointment in Atlanta that she returned to her original category of middleweight. The decision was splendidly justified yesterday

Graeme Randall, from Edinburgh, narrowly failed to secure a bronze medal in the light-middleweight division, losing the decisive bout on a penalty point with two sec-onds remaining.

Pool C

CYCLING

## Brooke bons Sciandri sets off in search of medal

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FROM JEREMY WHITTLE IN SAN SEBASTIAN

MAX SCIANDRI, the Anglo-Italian rider who was born in . Derby, raised in the United States and who now resides in Tuscany, represents Great Britain's best hope of a medal in the gruelling professional road-race at the world championships here in northern Spain tomorrow.

Sciandri, 30, who won a bronze medal at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year and who is one of the strongest one-day riders in Europe, is in excellent form after finishing second last weekend in the season's permultimate World Cup race, the Paris-Tours classic. He will be supported in the British team by two other professionals based on the Continent, David Millar and Jeremy Hunt.

Johan Museeuw, of Belgium, the defending champion, has less reason to be confident. "I can't say that I'm in my best form," he said yesterday, having spent the early part of the week recovering from a feverish virus. "We'll have to wait and see." Nevertheless, the circuit is well suited to his all-round strengths.

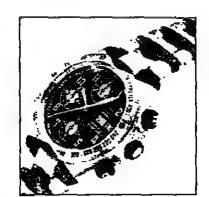
French hopes rest with the world No I and new world time-trial champion, Laurent Jalabert, who is chasing an unprecedented double success, and Richard Virenque, who was second to Jan Ulirich, of Germany, in the

Tour de France in July.
In the absence of Ullrich, who is on holiday in Australia, the strongest challenge is likely to come from the talented but erratic Italians, who have several riders vying for team leadership. It is five years since Italy claimed the gold medal and the pressure to succeed has seen the team's outward togetherness dissolve in bitter rifts over tactics in previous years.

Although Italian morale was boosted yesterday by the success in the junior men's road-race of Crescenzo d'Amore. 18, from Naples, the squad suffered a heavy blow when the veteran team captain, Ciaudio Chiappucci, failed a blood test and was withdrawn from Sunday's elite event.

In yesterday's other race the junior women's road event, Mirella van Melis, of Braendli, of Switzerland, to take the first Dutch gold medal of the championships. However, the 18-year-old's success was overshadowed by an horrific crash involving the Belarus rider, Larisa Tchouenko, who fell heavily on her head but, remarkably, suffered only concussion and facial cuts.

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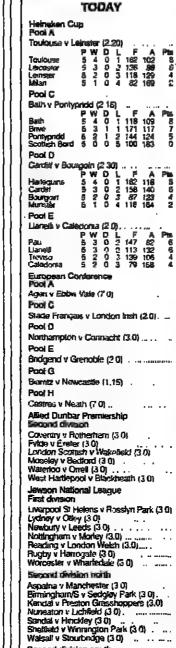


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Second division south

Plymouth v Weston-supe Tabard v Redruth (3.0)

politan Police v Chellenham (3 0)

#### SRU League Trophy Group A Group B TOMORROW Heineken Cup Fool A Pool G Edinburgh v Perpignan (at Goldenacre, 3.0) Milan v Leloseter (2.0) Aberavon v Cross Keys (2.0) . Abernliery v Caerphilly (2.0).... RUGBY UNION STATISTICS LEADING PLAYERS IN EUROPE TOP TEAMS DEFENCES TRIES PER MATCH **FEWEST POINTS CONCEDED** HEINEKEN CUP 1 Stade Français 9 53 2 Newcastle 7 40 3 Wasps 6 32 4 Cotomiers 8 37 5 Montferand 8 32 Richmond 7 28 7 Toulouse 8 30 8 Pomyondd 7 26 9 Swansea 7 25 10 Martequint, Llaneffi 7 23 663 571 5.33 463 400 1.75 3.71 3.57 3.28 2 France ...... 2012 1 7 3 Wales ........... 2010: 1 9 96 104 135 136 141 147 16.83 16.88 17.00 17.63 - ---- 10 3 0 7 - . ... 15 4 011 7 Taulan ...... 8 Taulause. ...... 15 4 011 26.67 ...... 8 147 ..... 7 130-**EUROPEAN CONFERENCE** POINTS PER MATCH MOST POINTS CONCEDED 7 331 ..... 7 279 .... 7 243 .... 8 259 .... 8 249 .... 7 216 2 England .... --- 40 27 0 13 39.71 34.71 32.38 31 13 30.86 ..... . 8041 237 42 00 41 87 4 Wates ----- 20 6 014 29.57 28.00 27.13 25 38 207 224 217 203 \* Figures for players from top-division clubs in England, France, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Fixtures included; domestic leagues, Helneken Cup and European Conference, representative and International matches.

#### WEEKEND OF RECKONING POOL A: it would be the

upset of the tournament if Leinster won in Les Sept Deniers today, Toulouse are favoured, therefore, to win the pool, with Leicester looking to beat Milan and qualify for a home play-off - possibly against Glasgow -- as the second-best of the runners-up.

POOL B: Wasps are so far out of sight that they need Swansea to come out firing to provide the sternest possible examination. The Welsh club need to win at Loftus Road to secure a play-off place but the more likely scenario is a Glasvictory over Ulster, with the Scottish team going through.

POOL C: Three of the four clubs retain an interest in the knockout phase if Bath Pontypridd, they would be assured of a home quarter-final with Brive, favoured to beat the Scottish Borders, as runners-up. A victory for Pontypridd, however, would confirm a play-off place for the Welshmen.

POOL D: A win or a draw in Limerick would give Harlequins their quarterfinal place. Were they to lose. Cardiff would have to beat Bourgoin by a huge margin to climb from second place but, even if Bourgoin won, they are unlikely to overtake Cardiff for a play-off place.

POOL E: Everything is up for grabs after Pau's recent fall from grace. They and Llanelli are the likely qualifiers with Pau ahead on points difference but Treviso have done well in the past fortnight and the Italians cannot be ruled out.



## Brooke bond with Quins forces debate

Imports whip up interest but

do they help England's cause?

The papers have been full of Zinzan Brooke's move to Harlequins. He was one of my role models when I was younger. Different players bring different qualities to their game, but he probably has more of the complete range than most. He is a warrior in every sense of the word. You don't play 54 times for the All Blacks if you are not teak-tough.

His signing has again raised the issue of foreign players in England. There are two sides to the argument. One side is that you can buy five Joe Worsleys a super talent at Wasps, who, I think, will play for England — for one Zinzan. There's also the argument

DALLAGLIO



that someone of his stature brings so much on and off the pitch. From an England standpoint, though, fewer England players in the first

division is not good news.

As in football, buying from overseas can be worrying. Where are the new, quality English players going to come from if you continue to look overseas for talent? It is not aproblem that will disappear overnight and Zinzan could start a trend. A lot of the 1 can organise myself, but I New Zealand guys' con-

tracts run out at the end of next year and a lot may follow him. It's a question of going getting the bal-ance right. The foreign imports have done great things for the sport, but we need to ensure that England's interests are uppermost. today'

Rugby going to have to take a back seat today. I won't miss the football for anything. Coming from an Italian family, I have got a foot in both camps, but I will be as gripped as the rest of the nation. My family is from Turin; we could talk about divided lovalties, but let's just say that, whoever wins in Rome, the Dallaglio family will have someone to cheer in the World Cup finals.

would love to see England win and it would be nice to see them do so in some sort of style. This is the most confident that the nation has been about England's football chances for a long time. We may not go into the match as favourites, but we have two chances and, knowing the Italian mentality, there will be tremendous pressure on them. I just hope we can do

Being in Belfast last week joining the back row ...

g page

back to the amateur days. Having beaten Ulster on Friday evening and there being no flight back that night, we enjoyed the hospi-tality. I half-expected to wake up on Saturday ready to go and watch England play Ireland.

Life is beginning to get hectic again. On Wednes-day, Radio 5 Live asked me to be a summariser for their live coverage of Saracens against Richmond. It was good fun to be involved with the professional team there and working along side guys like Nigel Starmer-Smith and John Inverdale made it easier. I had one eye on getting some radio experience and another on seeing how Saracens are shaping up, because we play them next Sunday in the league at Loftus Road. It was good to see how the other half - the

launched the new Nike England kit. It has the St George's Cross look about it to try to generate a real English feel, which has been lacking in the past. Next Tuesday, my book is out - Diary of a Season. It takes us through the highs and lows of last season, culminating in the Lions tour — one of the best rugby moments I'll probably ever be involved in. The book is one of those things I can look back on when I am older and say I really enjoyed that season. My life is now pretty

much run by computer which is vital because in the past I've not been known for being well-organised. Things are changing — slowly. Three management outside of rugby is very important. I have a family to consider. It is important that I spend time with them. I want to. I am trying to get into a situation where couldn't manage without Alice, my part-

ner. Behind ev-'Rugby is ery man is a good woman; nine times out of ten: it is the to take woman who drives the man forward and a back I'm quite happy to admit that. seat to football it's Swansea, and they'll be a

tough proposi-tion because it is win or bust for them in Europe. But we have home advantage and they will have to take the game to us; they'll throw the kitchen sink at us. There is no danger of complacency on our part, even though we have qualified. I'm looking forward to playing against Scott Gibbs. He's a world-class player and a very nice bloke on and off the pitch. He just loves playing rugby foot-ball. He is quiet and unassuming off the field, but on

Tomorrow,

on in an instant. To be able to do that is a special talent indeed. He relishes the contact side of the sport and I think he gets frustrated playing rugby union because he doesn't get involved as much as he would like i can understand that because when you are in and out of the game, it is not much fun. Perhaps he should consider

it he has the ability to turn it



Guscott in the familiar surroundings of the Bath dressing-room at the Recreation Ground. He joined as a seven-year-old and says he is still happy at the club and in the city

## Guscott's relaxing Bath

afé pavement society in Bath lacks that certain chic characteristic of Paris, but it is lively enough for all that. conversation with Jeremy Guscott is interrupted periodically by car horns as yet another acquaintance of the England centre speeds by and, occasionally, there is a brief consultation over prospects for the weekend, or for the return to the game of Guscott himself.

Bath the city takes great pride in Guscott the player, quite patently because he is one of its own. Born in the Larkhall area and brought up there and in Batheaston, many of the friends of his youth remain friends. They recognise that the "arrogant, cheeky, snotty little 20-year-old" (Guscott's own words) has won international recognition through his innate athletic talent, but that his roots remain sound.

"I have real friends here, to whom I can talk about really emotional things," Guscott said. "I can rely on them. I talk to them every week and something would be wrong if I didn't. They know me best, they make sure my feet stay on the ground. If something came up that meant moving away, then I would have to consider it, but I can't conceive of that happening. This is a wonderful place - even if something came up that made life somewhere else so perfect, I'd still end up coming back."

Guscott laughs at the thought of taking his wife, Jayne, and his three daughters - Imogen, 5, Holly, 2, and Saskia, four months - away from the environment that he knows so well, and that knows him. It is a valuable Virtues of home comforts extolled by England centre enjoying

reference point, not only for Guscott as sportsman but Guscott as person-receive the ball, I'll ality: through television, he has won a reputation as a presenter and he now co-hosts Gladiators, the athletic-

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All of this through rugby, though Guscott is convinced that, if the sport had not created a different, challenging outlook, then some other sport — probably football — would have done. Yet, for all that, Guscott has ridden the wave of a sport bursting from its amateur bonds and into the consciousness of people who may not have spared it a backward glance ten

7 ithin that time, he has made 48 appearances for England, played in two World Cups and made three tours for the British Isles. He sees another two years as a contracted player with Bath before bowing out, graciously, at the age of 34, although, in the summer of 1999. there will be an additional lure, in the shape of another World Cup, on the horizon. The temptation for Guscott would be obvious.

Perhaps too obvious, and that has never been Guscott's way. "I walk on a field and I'm excited because I don't know what the hell's going to happen. I've got to the stage now

diverse and challenging career

est advantage o what's on, do what I no stupid misplan either, just enjoy the moment." If that happens then Guscott will be back in an England shirt after spending a season among the

replacements. There

try to take the great-

are few players so gifted at creation in the crowded area. of rugby's midfield, but he acknowledges himself that he derived little enjoyment during the two years leading up to the 1995 World Cup, when recovery from a groin injury and fundamental law changes worked in tandem against him.

That changed last season when Bath, where he has played since being initiated into mini-rugby as a seven-year-old, threw off their internal problems and produced a glitter-ing cascade of matches. It confirmed that Guscott would tour South Africa with the Lions during the summer and that eight-week experience proved the most intense of his career. The demands of training, the

HANDS



any squad mem-bers left, he said. "I thoroughly enjoyed the trip, but sometimes, when I wanted to go out and relax. [ couldn't. In the previous two tours,

spotlight under

which rugby is

country left play-

ers drained and

Guscott himself

with a broken

cept that discipline

over an eight-week

period, but there's

no way you could

accept it all season,

you wouldn't have

"You have to ac-

played

you might have got away with it - no chance now. That's why I seriously consider whether I would go on another tour, the main reason being how could you get bigger than winning a series in South Africa with the Lions?" Bigger, indeed, than dropping the

goal that secured victory in the second international in Durban, a score that Guscott confesses supersedes anything else in his memory, even though the game was one of almost incessant defence. Touring is different to playing for your club or playing for England. If I had to play like that in the five nations', I would get halfway through and retire.

that over a long period. You have to accept it on tour and any disappointment we felt in the way we played in the first two Tests was smashed to smithereens by winning the series But I don't believe in this concept of entertainment. If a game becomes entertaining, that's luck, but my main motivation is going out and

playing as well as I can."
Whatever he is doing — spending time with his family, playing rugby, expanding his experience in commentary for Radio 5 Live's sports department, acting as a spokesperson for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme — he gives it his full attention. Indeed, he would be delighted to be playing rugby but his arm injury, followed by a strained back muscle, have kept him out.

For Guscott, life is a series of pareddown consequences. Performance on the field comes first and, if that goes well, other benefits follow, commercial opportunities that he examines carefully before committing himself. Guscott hates endless analysis: he is a creature of the present, playing what he believes to be a simple, uncomplicated game.

Seriously, I couldn't tell you what I'll be doing in three years' time," he said. "I've never had a long-term plan. The only thing that's really solid is the rugby contract." And those roots in Bath.

#### ON MONDAY

Jeremy Guscott describes the moment when his dropped goal won the series in South Africa

SHOULD Wasps, the English champions, complete this weekend's Heineken Cup pool matches by beating Swansea

at Loftus Road tomorrow, they will go through to the quarterfinal draw on Tuesday as the only unbeaten team in the competition (David Hands writes). Given Swansea's dire inconsistency, few would bet against it, but Nigel Melville Damian Cronin in a pack where Dugald Macer gets a has told his players that this relatively rare outing at game is, in effect, Swansea's

"You cannot afford any slipups that could lead to catching

Wasps in pursuit of perfect record the losing habit," Melville, director of rugby at Wasps, said. He has called up Martyn Wood at scrum half and Simon Shaw, the England lock, returns to partner

Leicester know that nothing less than a convincing win over Milan in Calvisano will

do if they are to be involved in the play-offs for quarter-final places over the weekend of November 1-2. Their midfield, pinpointed as an area of weakness against Toulouse last week, sees the return of Joel Stransky alongside Niall Malone while Neil Back rests an ankle injury and Eric Miller switches to the open-

side flank. Keith Wood leads Harlequins against Munster, his former province, at Thomond Park in the hope that he does not receive the treatment meted out by Mick Galwey in the first game between the two sides: Galwey's punch left Wood distinctly groggy, though that incident received no more than passing attention compared with the outbreak of violence elsewhere in

the tournament.

That drew an unwanted spotlight on Pontypridd, who will lay aside their administrative problems this afternoon in the hope that they can win in Bath. The disrepute charge levelled at Dale McIntosh, their No 8, after the first meeting with Brive is likely to be heard by European Rugby Cup officials on Tuesday; they must also deal with Pontypridd's request for a reduction

after that same game in Brive. That will be of little concern to Bath, who are desperate to recover after their roasting in Brive last weekend. Victory would bring with it a home quarter-final, against a Pontypridd team missing David Manley and Geraint Lewis from their wings; Jason Lee plays instead while Bath will field Jon Sleightholme in the knowledge that their asking price for his transfer. £100,000, has already been condemned as "silly" money.

in the level of the fine imposed



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RACING: CHANNEL 4 COUNTERS LOSS OF YORK PROGRAMME BY COVERING NATIONAL HUNT CARDS AT BANGOR AND WORCESTER

Dr Fong has grounds for optimism

By RICHARD EVANS RACING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a week when the doping of horses and fires at a top Newmarket yard have given racing an unwanted taste of real-life Dick Francis, punters at Ascot this afternoon stand every chance of being fleeced - albeit legitimately. Almost 14 inches of rain

has produced heavy going and, if the forecast is accurate, it is in danger of becoming a quagmire - which limits the formbook's value in the search for winners. Last weekend backers en-

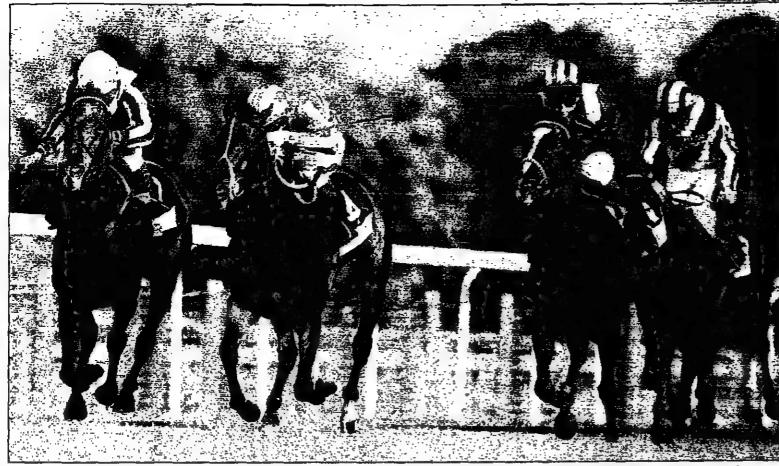
joyed a field day at bookmakers' expense, courtesy of Pasternak in the Cambridge shire and Peintre Celebre in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, but the layers will be confident of recouping losses today.

#### RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MYRTLE QUEST (5.15 Ascot) Next best: Destin D'Estruvai (4.30) Worcester)

Few of the runners have encountered such staminasapping ground, and although a horse's breeding and action offer some clues as to its ability to cope with the mud, an element of guesswork re-mains. The McGee Group Autumn Stakes (BBC1, 200) is a case in point. Rabah, the form choice on his second to the useful Lend A Hand at Doncaster, has never encountered ground softer than good, but Nashwan's progeny usu-ally enjoy some ease. Evening World and Equity Princess have proved they can act on soft but have not produced the

level of form of their rivals. Dr Fong beat the strongly fancied Distant Mirage on his debut at Newbury, having missed the break before run-



Jain, second right, comes with a late run to defeat Dancing Drop and Blessed Spirit, left, in the Bonusprint October Stakes at Ascot yesterday

ning on strongly inside the final furlong. The Henry Cecil-trained runner, who cost \$425,000 as a yearling, will relish today's extra furlong and should handle the going. being by Kris. Dr Fong worked well on the Al Bahathri gallop last Saturday

and can oblige.

Land Of Dreams hardly came off the bridle when landing the Flying Childers Stakes at Doncaster and the Cadeaux Genereux filly had previously run well enough on good to soft ground. However, she might be worth opposing on this surface in the Willmott Dixon Cornwallis Stakes (2.30), especially given her draw towards the middle of

Regal Revolution, who cost 3,000 guineas as a yearling, has been the bargain buy of the season and her listed race success at Ayr three weeks ago was her fifth victory of the season. Peter Walwyn's tough filly likes to race prominently and enjoys easy ground, but the draw is a worry. Lady Alexander, winner of the Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood, failed to stay seven furlongs last time and should be more at home over this stiff five. Proven on soft ground, she is well drawn and is just preferred to Halmahera.

The classic generation has found it tough against older horses for much of this season and it would no surprise to see Reine Wells, a four-year-old French raider, fight out the finish of the Princess Royal Stakes (3.00) with Snow Princess, the Lord Huntingdon trained five-year-old. Although without a win this term. Snow Princess ran her best race last time on unsuit-

ably fast ground behind Book At Bedtime, Today's ground and trip should be ideal.

Azizzi has the plum draw in the Willmott Dixon Handicap (3.35) and, despite stepping back in trip, is sure to make a bold show. However, Surprise Mission is proven on heavy ground, having won in a center at Chester in May, and Olivier Peslier is an eyecatching booking for Lynda Ramsden's well-handicapped MURET.

Away from the gaze of the television cameras, Myrtle Quest makes considerable ap-

peal in the Duke Of Edinburgh Handicap (5.15) given the way he won at Kempton 19 days ago. Roger Charlton had thought the Rainbow Quest gelding needed middle distances, but the five-year-old appreciated being returned to a mile at the Sunbury course when winning from Polish Rhythm, who subsequently ran a cracker in listed company at Newmarket. Raised just 4b, Myrtle Quest should

Cumani's second fire, page 7 William Hill sold, page 27

relish the conditions.

## Royal York for crowning glory

CHANNEL 4

3.10: Vintage Taittinger has had a busy time during the summer, winning three times, but the handicapper may have caught up with him judged by his most recent run, and the likely favourite could be vulnerable. Richard Dunwoody is an interesting booking for Carrolls Rock, who was with Aidan O'Brien last season. Placed in bumpers and a chase, he is at the right and of the handicap.

3.40: Real Tonic can defy top weight under Richard Dunwoody. He took time to recover from falling on his chasing debut last season but got the hang of jumping by the backend and looks the sort to run up a sequence.

4.15: Millcroft Riviera has the advantage of having won over fences and he looked far from wound up when obliging at xeter a month ago. However, Robert Alner's runner was not in the same league as Royal York over hurdles and Gordon Richards's mare looks more than capable of making a winning start over the larger obstacles. Her front-running style is ideally suited to this tight track.

4.50: Rythm Rock showed sufficient in just two starts for David Gandolfo, after a move from Ireland, to suggest he can open his account here and provide Dunwoody with yet another winner. The form he showed when second at Towcester and third Uttoxeter is better than anything else on offer. Follow De Call won a weak race over course and distance last month and Raining Stairs looks a bigger danger.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

WORCESTER

3.25: Euphoric Illusion's hurdling remains suspect and cost him dearly at Bangor last time. A clear round would give him a sound chance. However. Bamapour won with a ton in hand under top weight. at Hereford nine days ago and is capable of following up off a 3lb higher mark

4.00: Dr Rocket is the proven performer over fences but looks weighted up to his best. Freno, a half-brother to Waterloo Boy, disappointed pn the racecourse last season despite working well at home. However, Kim Bailey is more. than hopeful that the six-year-old will be a different horse over fences. Supermick showed fair form over hurdles and should be fit enough for his chasing debut.

4.30: Destin D'Estruval hacked up over course and distance on his final start last term. The six-year-old looked in good trim on David Nicholson's gallops on Wednesday when working alongside Viking Flagship and should be fit enough to do himself justice. Fine Thyne took well to chasing last season, winning three times at Kempton, and is normally a sound jumper.

RICHARD EVANS

#### ASCOT

2.00 Equity Princess 2.30 Thanksgiving

3.35 Repertory 4.10 HERITAGE (nap) 4.40 Chips

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.30 REGAL REVOLUTION. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Dr Fong. 3.00 Bombazine 4.10 WINTER ROMANCE (nap).

#### GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 112. 0-0432 9000 TRAES 74 (CD,RF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 88

brounds in latest specy Going on which horse has work (F -- firm, good to firm, bard, G -- good 5 -- soil, good to soil, lessyy). Owner in brackets.

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

DRAW: 5F-1M STR, LOW NUMBERS BEST

#### 2.00 MCGEE GROUP AUTUMN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £12.429: 1m md) (4 runners) \_ K Falken 105 T Gown 104 R HAS (TES) D Howard 100 1 BR FOXE 23 (F) The purpose Consequent H Cool 8-11 ... 313 EVERSE CORED 22 (E.S.) (F Heir-Hacheson F Cole 8-11 0212 RABAH 30 (F) H Albertson J Duston 8-11 622: EDIATY PRECESS 21 (D.S.) NA Al-Assoum) M Johnston 8-6 BETTOKO THE Entropy 6-2 EASY of World 1-1 Republ 4-1 Books Princess

FORM FOCUS

Dr Foring beat Orstent Mirrige Wil in 71 Newbury maiden Igood to Unit Personal World St 3rd to Duck Row of 1rm Rendown stated (SSC). Rabbath 1947 204 to Level A Hand or 1rm Obstactive revisery reports to 1rm Ayr maiden (good to solf). RABAM functional in a hot massary, can return to wanting ways

1995 HOSH ROLLER 8-11 PM Edday (2-5 for H Cool 5 cm

#### 2.30 WILLMOTT DOXON CORNWALLIS STAKES (Group III 2-Y-0: £23.240: 51) (14 runners)

1999, EASYEALL 3-4 W Tethult (11-2) & Meetign 11 cm FORM FOCUS

Land 01 Drawns bear Tippid Boy (8th better off) (2g) in 55 Decreates group 1 states (good to firm) with Barrangham Blade (6th better off), 37% Ath Bold Edge 58%) and to Determent in 65 Sainthary states (good in the Blade) and the Sainthary states (good in the Sainthary states) (good in the Sainthary states) and the Sainthary states (good). Pure Coincidence and and in 2 the early of 51 day, case there (good) Lady Assander (2g) in to face considering and the Sainthary states (good). But 31 day in 54 Charles) group in 54 Charles) group in 54 Charles (good) and the Sainthary states (good) and the Sainthary states (good). Regal Removation bed Sainthare And reck of 61 ft. in 161 ft. in 161

#### 3.00 princess royal stakes Group III: £31 468 1m 4h (7 runners)

1994 TASE ALLOWED 3-2-7 ( Ped 015-2) W Stock 11 Ge

SPACERUL LASS lest troubed oil by Proce here last time can on one better

	(	OUR	SE S	PECIALIST	S		
TRAINERS Lac. reside In lace I	to The Party of th	7:25 49 57 159 98	135 136 175 173 173	JOCKEYS  G Pesher L Delton M Parame T Count R Hills	1/25-05 8 4: 20 20 15	Pd+, 40 252 172 212 133	30 G 16 2 16 2 15 7

#### York called off again

THE meeting scheduled for York today has been called off because parts of the course remain unfit after heavy rain. The clerk of the course, John Smith, said: "We had good drying weather overnight, but there are patches of false ground and, in the interests of safety, we couldn't take the risk. Some of the patches are in the straight, and it would be impossible to doll them off." York's meeting on Thursday was also cancelled.

#### 3.35 WILLMOTT DIXON HANDICAP

FORM FOCUS

Techurrow bast Crowded Avenue 2 in 81 Ascot hardisco (good to firm) Croft Pool 25st 4th to Destining Blue is 5t Neumented Instead (good to soft) with Techurrow (Bit wices oft) 54st 13th Rudius Per 51 9th to Penystop View in 64 Ayr hardiscop (good to soft) Descentengatzway 35st 6th to Descripe Rese in 65 Ayr hardiscop (good to soft) Descriptionary 35st 6th better off) 5t 8th Anselmanneck 2nd to Patsy Grimus (2b wass off) in 51 Haydock handiscop (good to firm). Repertory 65st 14th to Destring 8the in 55st Docesser transless (good to firm) with Striptise Bitsson (Breed) 15st 3th Anselmanneck 2nd to Patsy Grimus (2b wass off) in 51 Haydock handiscop (good to firm). Repertory 65st 20th Distinctive Drewn in eck 2nd to Al Large in 61 Notingham handiscop (good to firm); with the Destrictive Drewn in the 2nd to Al Large in 61 Notingham handiscop (good to firm); shaltstyrholy 11 4th to Dominant Air in 51 Neumarisch handiscop (good to firm). TEDBURHOW can overcome a 5th one in the basediscop cance level and have been TEDBURHOW can overcome a 5th rise in the handicap strict less last eas bette

#### 4.10 FINANCIAL DYNAMICS RATED HANDICAP

(2.12.52.11 ITT 27) (1) TURNETS)

107 (7) 0710211 DANISH PHAPSODY 17 (D.F.G) of Hardin Lady Hermas 4-8-1. Paid Ecday 55

108 (7) -441213 WINTER ROMANCE 21 (CU.S) (M of Abstraum E Danise 4-8-6. M NEEs 59

109 149 -300000 WILLIAM 20 (R.D.F.G.S.) (T Warnet P Mater 6-9-7. K Fabon 99

109 151 100-3 GRESSTEAD 188 (D.F.G.S.) (T Warnet P Mater 6-9-7. K Fabon 99

109 111 2-21102 ALEZAL 29 (S) (H Scotter) of Javes 3-8-11. Section 99

108 (6) -621111 ESHTARL 15 (B.D.F.S) (F. & Abstraum 5 Roots 5-9-7. J Area 109

108 199 0007220 AMERICA 115 (B.D.F.S) (F. & Harmedy 2 Scotte 5-9-7. J Resident 78)

118 14 1400004 PROMER BAYT (B.D.J.S.) (F.S.) (S. & Harmedy 2 Scotte 5-9-7. J Resident 78)

119 19 4 14100004 PROMER BAYT (B.D.J.S.) (Free Cartin) P Harme 3-8-6. G Carte 102

110 170 4-31100 HERMAGE 37 (BF.C.S.) (Physician Racing Lith J Gottom 2-8-7. D Pesier 102

111 (2) BD-2112 CAGRAS 20 (D.S.) (Thes Saves) C Battery 3-8-2. S Gerace 102

Long Assidica) Camberto 7-13, Cupra 7-13 BETTING 3-1 Austri 5-1 Schlauf, Winter Romanico, 6-1 Hambago, 7-1 Wilcolma, 8-4 Cupra, Danish Filationa, 12-1 Austria Tana, 14-1 Gregoricad Pramer Bay 20-7 London's

1996: PROPER BLUE 3-6-2 S Santas (12-1) 1 1995 8 qc FORM FOCUS

Takes (good to rem) Whiter Romance 459 2nd to States (good to rem) Whiter Romance 459 2nd to States (good to rem) Whiter Romance 459 2nd to States in 154m Fempton states (good to soft) Wilcome 55 2nd to States (good to soft) Wilcome 55 2nd to States (good to soft) Wilcome 55 2nd to States (good to soft) Alexai 1541 2nd to Facilitati Son in 154m December 83ay (file tokes 65) 2nd Penchocha 44 in 154m Penchand had advantaged (good to firm) with Promise 8ay (file tokes 65) 3nd to Sharp Corcul in 154m Newbury handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154 of 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to 555c 154m York handleds (good to firm) Heritage 346 78 to

ESHTIAAL is sure to make bold bid to complete a fine-timer

#### 4.40 HYPERION CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-0, 97,178, 7f) (5 (Excess) | Col. | (b) 3121010 CRPS 21 (D.F. (b) (Lazaron Shell D Ethnorth Shell D E

BETTING, 2-1 Chapt, 9-4 (a-Face 11-4 July Club 6-1 Septem Space, 14-1 Salaring PORM FOCUS
Chips 191 7m by Xiaz in 71 Langebarne group 1 chips, good, lazze
Chip 131 6m to Saratoga Springs in 71 faith stores (good) in 71 LaFash Herels) 181 7m Baiswing 441 8m to Hamiltones in 81 Apr
Indeed stakes (good to both) Smooth Saving 61 3nd to Savings in 1m Savingsian states; good to both)

CHIPS will appreciate this door in class

#### 5.15 DUKE OF EDINBURSH HANDICAP

(23.	2(0) 1111 2113	(19 runners)	
Ŧ	·7, 0-4:060	#91.10h ARSONAL 98 (F.G) rEutmett Forms 4 Betrop \$-10-1 R Propert (S)	25
- 2	6: 6-36000	MUSICA HOUSE 30 (B.S) Oktory Man Man 5 (b) Prop. 43-7 . If Sich	9
3	(17) - <b>014023</b>	POLISH RHYTHM 9 (D S) (S Ferrance 6 Marret 4 5-2	91
£	C) 5-31	DESERT TRACK 84 (D.F) (Street Michiganus) (Gosden 1994)	34
	(12) 1061430	Q FACTOR 30 (D.F.S) (* Select D. Hoyes) James 5-3-5 S Course	33
6	.158815	ROCK FALCON 10 (8,0.6) (E Port) Lary tomes, 4-54 Dean Michelan	Ç.
7	13) 504/501	MYRTLE CUEST 19 (D.F.C) (Max M. Dieche) # Clarker 5-52 . T. Sprane	52
ě	19/ (3300486	PLAN FOR PROFIT 56 (F.G) (** Tremoral Plants 12 Augusto 1-5-1 2 Heliane	35
9	-14: 1-80530	TEST THE WATER 21 (C.S) () Threechelli 6 Proper \$-3-3 . Size 0.72-5	<b>2</b>
٠,٦	(*1; 0606-50	POLAR ECLIPSE 158 (5) () & cc; P Medy 44-12 . The second	31
7.7	1) 32204	NGO 427 (Sectionary 14 Autor 5-2-13	37
12	151 2551515	ABAJANY 20 (D.G) : 1 Villing & Partiette M Charlette 5-5-12	34
77	::: 5-01040	PHONETIC 38 (D.S.) Material Sweet & Babby 4-8-11 PP Editory Co.	39
2.5	(13) 5-534	SYCAMORE BOY 20 (G Micros) Lord Harmoglar 7-8-9 G Pas at	91
75	(17) 0-30100	MINE 7 (D.F.S.) Namerica Constanting Constanting Conducts of Constanting Const	E
46	(3) 6423126	DOMESTING COLF TIME 24 (Y.F.G.) (Conclair Plant, Land Heckycters 4-5-4 R. A.E.	図
17	"E: 0543611	DIRECTOR (Dental Patrents Life ) Poster 4-7-22 5 Ear 15.	3
10		CAMBOLLO 30 (D.S) (Al Agristr - Aber) Not 2 Diction 4.7-10 (September 2)	33
13		PREMONANCES 19 (D.F.G) (35: 10 Ozo. 9 Apparts 42-10 Yarrs Care	71
	,	1. 1. Tanana - 7.6	_

BETTAKO 4: Myria Cues, 5:1 Otest Track for Police Region, 3:1 Appara Guerrie Sel Time Stot Prometr Los, 12:1 Il Racio, Sympton Boy 14:1 albers 1996 HIGH PRESSUE B-6-12 A Culture (14-1) 9 Form 28 To

FORM FOCUS

Welton Assental 18 14th to Tumblement Pedge to 77 New table handican (good) Polich Rhyton 291 3rd is favired in first market handican (good) Polich Rhyton 291 3rd is favired in first handican (good to firm) with Australies market handican station (good) Desert hands the size of Walters neck in firm Newstarket market (good to firm) O Factor 5.47 12th is Safe, in 77 Son case is hardwap good to firm) with Newstarket with a first station of the control of the first state of 5 to 4 cm and 17 Newstarket humber states (good to firm) Whytic Quest hear Polish Rhyton of the more replace handicap (good to firm) Whytic Quest hear Polish Rhyton (184) after 50 to 4 cm and 18 polish and 18 polish Rhyton for the more first the Walter 16 to 4 to 5 to 18 polish and produced from 18 polish Rhyton at 18 polish Rhyton 18 polish Rhyton at 18 polish Rhyton at 18 polish Rhyton at 18 polish Rhyton (184) and 184 polish Rhyton (184)

PHONETIC has conditions to sent and can return to his bas

#### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

#### Ascot

nd J Duntop Tate \$9.20 DF \$16.00. CSF \$24.58 1no 200.80 CSF 20198
3.40 (7h 1, Smart Squall LI Reid, 8-11; 2, Inclain Missale (14-1), 3, Pay On Red (12-1) Tightope 11-4 har 15 ran NR. Admire 24: 11-1, Lord Humingdon, Totar 1970; 63:90, 12-30, 23:60 DF 23:570 Thor 2579:90 CSF, £102.08 Theat £1,225.73.

4.15 (1m) 1 Ghallo (R Hills: 11-8 tax, Thunderer's nep), 2, Cha-Yo (25-1), 3 Weig-A-Minuto (9-4), 5 ran 2, nk. W Hem Tota: \$2.40; \$1.50, \$2.60 DF \$23.90, CSF, \$27.04

CSF, 527 08
4.46 (1m 4f) 1, Taunt (M Hills 7-1), 2
Martles Prince (14-1), 3, Matterneo (8-1)
Royal Diversion 9-2 tov 13 ran 144, 8, D
Martley, Tote 5E 20 62 50, 24 60, 53:90
DF 549 60 Trio 5210 30 CSF 991 75
Tricast 6741 20 Tricast 6741 30
5.20 (2m 159th) 1, Januar (L Dotton, 4-1
fax, Timeleapper's top rating), 2 Galapino
16-11, 3 Bold Buster 19-21 10 rain, 11-11, hd.
J. Gooden, Tothe 53-20, 57-80, 52-10,
21-50 DF 512-80 Trio, 519-10 CSF223-35 Yintast 595-92

Placepol: 1910.50 Quadrot: \$119.00. Carlisle

Going: good to firm

1.50 (2m 11 hole) 1. Uitle Mice Rocker (D Parler, 11-4) 2. Real Five (6-4 (-lav), 3. Distancion Times (6-4 (-lav), 3 ran Nic, 7) A. Dichen, Total £3-40. DF £4-00. CSF-

2.55 (2m ft 110yd hole) 1, Leap in The Dank (A P McCoy, 2-1 fey), 2, Four From Home (9-4) 3, Meadowleck (33-1), 6 ren. 4, 7, Mass L Soddal Tote (22-50), 21 50 21 20 CF 53 40, CSF 96 18

3.30 (3m chij 1, Royal Vecation µ Cataghan, 4-9 tari; 2 Boarding School (3-1, 3 White Damond (12-1) 4 cm (1-1, dez G Micore Tota £1 40 DF £1 60 CSF £1 93 4.05 (2m If hase) 1 Cotage Prince (G Hogan 9-4), 2 Pertland Squre (3-1), 3, Wei Appointed (6-4 ha), 4 ran NR Royal Cross 5: 27 J Quinn Tote (3:00, QF, each rest fines

C3 50 USes (28 57 4.35) Christophile Men (D Bortloy, 2-11.2 Waspeptill (7-4 lav) 3, Cross Common (2-1), 4 ran 148 Baltery Fred 1141 91 M Poly Tote \$2.80 DF, \$2.20, CSF \$5.54 5.18 (2m If Rat 1 Knightsbridge Lad Afficherson, 4-1) 2. Tolom Fate (3-1), 2. Luner Darror (114-4ah Bara, NR C Man Fage 8: 9 Mass V Williams Tolor (5-90: 5162, 5219, 5130 DF (7-40 CSF-5159) Too CRE2

#### Placepot: \$236.40 Quadpot: \$20.30 Huntingdon

Gener good 2.10 (2n 4) 110/d hdier 1, Pastings (Michael Bretmon, 10-1) 2, Northern Flaet (2-1) (-fain), 3, Just 11 Acc (-1), Tuctors Tour 2-1 (-fain) 11 an Ns. 91 GHubbard Tote: \$12.40, 12.40, \$2.40 DF \$14.20 Trio \$49.70 CSF \$31.10 2.40 (3m st 110;d ch) 1, Merbert Ladge (NVSSamcoe, 1-2 lav) 2, Mopbalde (7-1), 2, Parceson (5-4) 7 ran, 2, 51 K Baldy Tale, \$1.50, \$1.10, \$2.20, CF, \$5.80, CSF, \$5.12 3.15 (3m ch) / Firefeigh Builds (A Promton 11-10 live); 2. Firms Gunner -2-4-7 3 Execut (5ou (2-1) 3 rain 21 15 May 1, Restort Total (200 DF 2200 CSF (23-5)

350 (2m 110yd holet 1, Wamdha (A S 3mm 6-7), 2, Star Manket (9-4), 3, ine 14cm (6-1), Dashing Dotler 2-1 (a), 6 ran, 14c, 17 (a), Margan Tele, 27 30, 22 20 22 12 DF 66 80 CSF 126 02 4.25 f2m 110nd ch (1 No Light IL Harvey 5.21, 2. Who's To Say (7.21, 3. Scottsh Bamb (3.13 last 3 ran, 1 V.L.S. A Turnot Tary 52.90, DF, 53.70 (CSF 58.40) A55 2m 113/d fat) 1 Gattan (M Koghley, 4-5 tan) 2, Fin Bec (33-1- 2 Egsound (7-3) 18 ran 4 5 ft Translam System Tota 12-40, 51 60 57 30 51 60 DF 354 80 Tho 5185 10 CSF 664 68 Barryn frisched hist but was droquathed by being the wrong course

Placemos: £36.00. Quadrot: £41 60.

#### BANGOR

THI INDERER 2.10 Johnny-K. 2.40 Hacketts Cross. 3.10 Tremendisto. 3.40 Glentinn Princess. 4.15 Royal York. 4.50 Rythm Rock. 5.25 Curraduff Molt.

2.10 THREAPWOOD NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,369: 2m 4f) (11 runners) 5-2 Japany-K. 4-7 Red Heek, 5-1 Telay, 6-1 Crystal Jones, 6-1 Globies, 16-1 JR. 14-1 Yeary Dissessor, 16-7 others.

#### 2.40 STADOG HANDICAP CHASE

2-4 Fed Cn Cas. 5-2 Coolean Hero. 3-1 Hackatt: Coss., 7-1 Teejayir'alkat, 8-1 Signa Aus

## 3.10 RUMARK HANDICAP HURDLE C4

5-2 Vertage Turburger, 7-2 Carrolls Rock, 6-1 Sant Call, Soldier Mai, 7-1 Miles Patents: 6-1 Terrateri, 13-1 Terrater, 16-1 callurs

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ascot: 4.40 Smooth Salling, Banget: 2.40 Sigma Run. 4 15 Laughdon 4.50 Annie's Kitchen Heidham: 2.50 La Perdoma. Worcester: 2.25 Desses Dan. 3.25 Vision Of

#### 3.40 WALLIS CORROON HANDICAP

1 Hot- Alph. Trans. 134 (7.5) & Rebands 7-17-40 — A
2 P-SP & ESSAND PROMOCOS 77 (67-5) Process 6-11-5
2 412- 709-24News 213 (67-6, 5) H House 10-10-12 ...
4 (69- GHA EMELAGE) 285 (67-6, 5) H Tobeles 11-10-11
8 1242 BAYSO 7 (60)-6, 5) 1 0 Since 5-10-10 ...
1 Holms 4-82 (7/ROL HS) 87 (67-6) Since 2 (78-6) 0...

4.15 THELWALL MEMORIAL TROPHY MOVICES CHASE (E3,599. 2m 4l) (8) 

## 4.50 GREENALLS INN PARTMERSHIP C4 NATIONAL HURT NOVICES HURDLE (52,274: 2m 1) (9)

9-4 Royal York, 4-1 Millional Riviers, 5-1 Manage, Holders Hill, 6-1 others.

## 5.25 BANBOR MARES ONLY STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,298: 2m 10) (18)

MATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,298: 2m 1f) (18)

1 20- DIRRADUF MOLL 213 (0.6.5) N T-Davies 6-11-7 C Literalism ACCERDING ELAZE R Woodhauer 5-11-4 Why BARTON CHC 5 Productor 5-11-4 Wise H Brookshew (7) DURRAYEN LAVY D Brace 5-11-4 Beach H Brookshew (7) DURRAYEN LAVY D Brace 5-11-4 Beach H Brookshew (7) DURRAYEN LAVY D Brace 5-11-4 Beach H Brookshew (7) PRIPALE LACE 28 H Howe 5-11-4 Beach Hillerial REPANDED D Brace 6-11-4 Mr 5 Durreck (7) PRIPALE LACE 28 H Howe 5-11-4 Mr 5 Durreck (7) PRIPALE LACE 28 H Howe 5-11-4 Mr 5 Durreck (7) POWN CF GUD Mac 9 Williams 4-10-13 Beach LAVE NOW RATH & BROOK 5-11-4 Mr 5-11-4 Mr

#### BANGOR --SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 15 winners from 48 runners, 31.3%, C Brooks, 6 from 20, 30.0%, P Hobbs, 6 from 22, 27.3%, D Gandello, 7 from 29, 24.1%, C Mann, 4 from 19, 21.1%, N Twiston-Dawles, 12 from 68, 17.6%, G Richards, 15 from 88, 17.6%, G Richards, 15 from 88,

17.5%. JOCKEYS: R Durwoody, 27 wores from 84 odes, 32.1%, G Bradley, 7 from 22, 31.0%, C Llewellyn, 10 from 57, 17.5%. R Johnson, 5 from 41, 12.2%, L Wyer, 3 from 25, 12.0%, L Harvey, 3 from 27, 11.1%

#### RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Ayr (first race, 2.20), Leicester (2.00), Newton Abbot (2.10) TUESDAY: Apr (220), Lakester (200), Sec periolo (2.10). WECNESDAY: Haydock Park (200), Notlingham (210), Wetherby (220) THURSDAY: Newmarket (C4, 130), Catherick (2.10), Taunton (1.45), FRIDAY: Neumarket (C4, 130), Cattenck (210), Hereford (145) SATURDAY: Newmarket (Cs. 1 40). Redcar (Cs. 2 13). Wolverhampton (AW, 7 0G), Kelso (2 00), Kempton Park (2 20). Stratierd (2 30) Rat mockings in bold

RACELINE ASCOT BANGOR HEXHAM 101 201 RANGOR 102 202 HEXHAM 103 203 WORGESTER 104 204 IRISH 120 220 FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168 IRISH LOTTERY RESULT

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8/1 Distinctive Dream 16/1 Croft Pool 8/1 Shaistayholy 16/1 Levelled 8/1 Tedburrow 18/1 Dancethenightaway

20/1 Repertory 10/1 Ansellman



Within a couple of minutes, I could change his direction at

will. Looking hard at his inside eye as he circled around

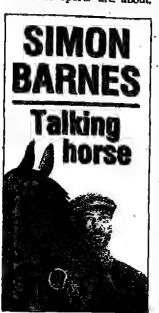
me. my body turned towards him. This was, I learnt, a form of considerable aggression. I

ه يخذ امن ريامها.

T have spent about 20 years trying to force the door open, and I think I've done quite well. I have pushed and shoved and hammered, and I have managed to open up a fair chink. And if I look through it, I can get a good idea of the beauties that lie on the far side. Twenty years of shoving. Now they tell

door opens inwards. I write these words in a fair amount of emotional turmoil. Because I have visited a man whose work redefines the relationship between humans and horses - and that is what all the horse sports are about,

me. Now they tell me that the



from racing through dressage

to pony club games.
In Richard Maxwell's yard, not far from Newmarket, is a racehorse that won't race. It is like the famous Hamlet cigar ad; he simply refuses to leave the starting stalls. There is a dressage horse covered in scars; it is given to violent selfmutilation. There is an eventing horse that rears up and bends backwards like a banana. It sometimes does this on one leg. There is also a child's pony that refuses to get on its trailer. "No snobbery here." Maxwell pointed out.

And there are half a dozen young horses that must be backed. This is horse jargon. not for placing a bet, but for teaching a horse to accept a rider. The traditional term for initial training of a young horse is "breaking". Maxwell

Learning to see eye to eye ing" and, in that lies a revolution: something that calls in to question the countless millennia of the relationship between man and horse. One other thing

about the yard:

there is not a single Maxwell is already I can see him wince - a horse whisperer. Naturally he feels alent about the blockbusting book that brought the new school of horsemanship into

the popular mind. Maxwell is glad that people have heard of it all not least because it brings him clients, young horses for starting, gonecuring. But he is not a phoney miracle-worker, he is not a faith healer. Just another practical horseman.

Yet he has worked what looked like miracles with rogue racehorses, horses that had been written off. Some would not enter the stalls, others were simply too aggressive. "Taking Vettori into the stalls was like being trapped in a broom cupboard

with Mike Tyson," Maxwell said. Vettori went on to win a classic, the French 2,000 Guineas. Stelvio, another write-off, won the Queen's Vase at Royal Ascot: La Confederation, once told never to darken a racecourse again, picked up a group two race.

It was the Queen that got Maxwell , started. She may



Murphy is never more content than when in close contact with Maxwell or another human with whom he has joined up

have said this week that the modern world is leaving her behind but she delighted in the sound of revolution when she heard of Monty Roberts. Roberts is the man behind the new school. He calls it, prosaically enough, "join-up"

Join-up is utterly convincing to almost anybody who witnesses it. Maxwell thought it was rubbish. He was training to be an instructor in the Household Cavalry at the time and was recommended polite word in the better regiments for "ordered" - to watch a Monty Roberts demonstration. "We sat there like schoolkids and picked holes in

it." Maxwell said. But Maxwell subsequently found himself with 35 horses to "back" in two weeks. This, the way, is impossible. Maxwell and a colleague did it by using join-up. Not a single injury was sustained by any of the horses or horsemen.

Maxwell went on to work for Roberts and subsequently left the Household Cavalry and went to California to work

for Roberts on his home ground. Then he set up on his own in England. And naturally, he has had a good share of being despised and rejected. The military tradition penetrates all aspects of horsiness: there is a right and a wrong way to do things, and you do not question it. Racing, in

was sending the norse away, as if in punishment for some tile. In truth, most misdeed. people in racing Roberts learnt this from are too much inwatching feral horses in the United States. They send away volved with today a horse that has stepped out of and tomorrow; there is never any line, upset a dominant animal. time for a radical He is barred from the herd. rethink of the fun-He may affect unconcern, but damental tenets of more than anything else in life, he wants to be back. It is his nature. Also, solitude can horsemanship. Doubts only come when a horse goes be fatal - a lone horse is ten thoroughly wrong. times more vulnerable to pred-

For many, Max-

jargon, who would

oecome an alpha

female, the domi-

nant mare in her herd. Maxwell

was seeking, by

eve contact and

body language, to

establish himself

as the dominant

"She doesn't

animal of the two.

want to accept

me," he said, with-

out for a second

taking his eye from

the mare. "She has

a lifetime of bag-gage to get rid of."

And as I watch, the

daily miracle occ-

urred: the mare

accepted the domi-

well is merely a things, to be part of the herd. Murphy cocked his right ear last resort, the towards me. It was the beginman to go to when all else fails. Natuning of a request to return to raily, he would prefer his method the herd. I made a concession: I permitted him to trot, moderating my body lan-guage in imitation of Maxwell. The horse lowered his head, to be a first resort. Back to the yard where Maxwell is working a young chewed with his lips, poked mare for the first out his tongue. It was a time. A tough indiplaintive request for forgiveness. I forgave, I turned away vidual: the sort, in animal behaviour from him, my eye leaving his.

ators. He needs, above all

stopped moving After about 30 seconds, I felt a soft nudge on my shoulder. The horse had "joined up" with me. And so, for about 15 minutes, I walked about. Very quickly, then slowly, some-times stopping dead. Every-thing I did, Murphy did a pace

t was stunning, and I was stunned. It is not something the horse learns. Horses have always known it. It is humans that have had to learn it: and then to show the horse that they have done so. In this way, humans have penetrated deeper than ever before into the border-country that lies between our two species.

Perhaps I have made all this nant animal, horse and sound a bit touchy-feelyhuman "joined up". happy-clappy. It is not. It is Bring on a new horse, and a very tough indeed: to send a new human. The horse was horse away is a severe scaldnot a problem animal but an ing. in some ways more severe ordinary decent sort, belongthan a whipping. But it is how horses deal with horses. And ing to Maxwell, called Murphy. It was a human that was with this method, the way is the problem. I know. I was open for a deeper understandthat human. ing - a deeper mutual under-But in less than a minute. 1 standing - than ever before. I'm a better horseman than I had Murphy cantering away

### GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

RUGBY LEAGUE World club chempionship Swrii-funy

Cronulia v Hunter (10 30em).... Cronulla v Hunter (10 30em)

NATIONAL CONFESSIONE LEAGUE (all luck-ofte 2 30) Premier divelone Assam v Legit Minors: Beverley v Wooteton, Hewarth v Wigari Si Patrick's Lock Lene v Dudley Hill, Mayfield v Wiest Hull; Oldhern St Anne 5 v Egremont; Walney, Cantral v Saddeworth First division: Barrow Island v Million, East Leads v Mittord: Legit East v Recht; Moldgreen v Blackbrook; Cultion v Thomhilt Sinhaugh v Eastmaan; Wigan St Juble's v Shaw Catas. Second division: Devisionly Moot v Normenton; Dodworth v London Studenta

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bartord Tigers v Donoaster (Alumenti Community Centre, Waissier), 12 (J), Beastor v Carnsol (Hof-fields, Notungham, 130); Canterbury v Resoling (Poto Farm, 130); East Granistad v Cotte Csart Hill, 2.0); Guidford v Ord Loughtonians (King's Manor School, 12 (c); Houndbow v Teddington (Dukes Meadow, Chistock 130); BOUTH LEAGUE: Premier League: Bounamount v Windrester: Cinchester v Hernis Bey, Eastcote v Purlay, High Wycombe v Gore Court, Old Whightillars v Macdonhoad, Ramgarha v Richmond: Trogers Chy of Portsmouth Turbinded Wells v Beckenham, Windredon v Fareham, Wol ing v Anctonans Hampstike/Surrey/Andover v Spencer, Basngstoke v Epsom; Blandford v Barness Goan v Dukucht Histemere v Old Georgians, Londort University v Chram, Old Mid-Whingilhars v Ovsholt, Old Cranispiers v Portsmouth; Oxford v Old Walcoumans: Petersheld v Cornbelley Karlifsusser: Ashtord v Tulse Hill BEHC v Sevenosk, Saddy i micta v Loyd: Bank, Blackheath v Worthing: Brighton v Burnt Akt, Folkastora v East-bourne; Horstom v Neithaven; Maddennegognor v Med Susser: Old Bordenians v Old Hocombeans: Middly/Bentes/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham v Brachnell, Ashthor v Hayes Farthern Common v West Hampstead: Lors v Mittor keynes, Newbury v Wolandkern Old Kingstonians v Merlow, PHC Chiswick v Proest Reciprograp Park v Gerrards Cross Stanes v Cry of Oxford: Sunbury v Hendon.

DITHER SPORT

Obser (Lincoln) v J Kaeton (Shotlioid) (at Shallioid Arens) Shallioid Arens) (Shallioid Arens) (Shalli

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Barford Tigers v Baeston (Alumareti Cc. Walsall, 2.0); Cannock v Dorcaster (Morris Ground, 2.30), Canterbury v Guiddord (Polo Ferm, 10), Hoursione v East Ginstead (Dukes Meadow, Chiswice 2.0), Readong v Od Loughtoners (Sorning Lane, 2.0); Southpase v Teddington (Trent Park, 2.0). Feet division: Bluefarst's v Isca (Helbrin Boys School, 2.0); Bournville v Lewes (King Edwards Guist School, Brimtigham, 2.30). Bromley v Hampstead and Westmuster (Prov) Lelsute Centra, Orpington 1.0), Brookland's v Sheffield (Georges Road, Safe 2.0). Chelmistord v Gymktinno (Chelmier Park 10); Theohand v Havant (Longwood, Felland, Bristol, 1.0), Gloucester City v Warmington (Plock Court, 1.30); Harteston Wagpies v Hull (Shofford Heath, 2.0); Oddord Hawks v Struppon (Garnbury Road, 2.0), Oddord University v Loughborough Students (St Edward's School, 2.0). Surbton v St Albans (Sugden Road, 2.30)

BASKETBALL Budwelser League: Neu-castle Eagles v Tharnes Valley Tigers (6.30). London Deviers v Crystal Palice (5.50). London Towners v Crystal Palice (5.50). IGE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Nottimphram Parithers (6.30), Sheff-seld Steelers v Neuroacile Cobras (6.30), Bassingstoke Bisson v Manchester Stom (6.0), Cardiff Devils v Brecknell Boes (6.0). GOLF: World matchplay championship (at Wentworth) GOLF: World matchplay championismp (at Wentworth): Craven Shield: First round: Coventry v Bradford (8.0), Swindon v Belle vue (7.0), Scottish Cup: Glasgow v Edinburgh (8.30), Individual: George Eng-fish Memorial Trophy (at Newscale, 6.30), Amaleur Leegue; Newport and Exeter v Reading and Swindon (2.30).

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6 20-2 PERSELE SEACH 21 (D.F.) G M Moore 7-10-12 ... J Callegham 9 PERS STROMERALONG 100 P Cheechrood 7-10-12 ... J Callegham 10 504 CRASSON RROCKDE 76 C Schubert 6-10-7 ... D Bendey 11 7632 PERCENT BEACH 25 N Mason 7-10-7 ... D Leaby

2.50 METRO CENTRE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-0-£2,385; 2m) (7) P FORTUNE HUNTER 1SF J Norton 10-10 ... € Caltagnam (3)
2 IBM MASIRAH 16 Mrs M Resciey 10-10 ... P. Naven
4 THE TIG 14 S Bed 10-10 ... K. Achteon
4 BOUT 16 R Mexicles 10-5 ... A Dobbin
2 IFFORMS 42 E Estet 10-5 ... A Thomson
9 I A PEPOMEN 44 R S Mrs M Minigan 10-5 ... R Greest
0 TRIBAL MISCIRES 125 D Mortats 10-5 ... D Bedgerater 11-10 Eponine, 11-8 fbn Masarah, 10-1 Tintar Maschet, 16-1 La Partiona, 25-1 The Tig. Book, 33-1 Fortune Funter

CHASE (£2,632: 2m 110yd) (9) 11-4 Salem Beach, 7-2 Whitegates Willie. 4-7 Battery Fired, 5-1 Paparazzo, 6-7 Astralego, 12-1 Super Guy, 20-7 Aristodemos, 25-1 others

3.55 HENNESSY COGNAC SPECIAL SERIES **NOVICES HURDLE** (£6,004: 2m) (6) A S Smith
A Dobbin
Ney 4-10-11 P Nevan 5 F113 PALAMON 18 (D.G.S.) P Eccles 4-10-11 ..... R Guest 6 603- AMBER HOLLY 154 J Dagon 8-10-7 .... B Soprey 6-4 Jamaican Flight, 15-8 Flyling Herith, 3-1 Paterson, 12-1 Nack Ross. 33-1 Triggerfish, Anaber Hulfy

4.55 METRO CENTRE SHOPPING ON SUNDAY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,167: 3m) (8)

4 SP-1 JURRAN 16 (D.F.) Boots: 11-11-2 R Genetal
4 SP-1 JURRAN 16 (D.F.) Boots: 11-11-2 R Genetal
5 4PP- D'ARBLAY STREET 194 (C.S.) W Kemp 8-10-13 B Storey
6 502- MENALDI 171 P Chectmody 7-10-0 A S Smith
7 3-35 DOWN FOREST CHIRTS & Mark Lamb 5-10-0 Miss S Lamb (7)
8 4-3P MY MESSLE 21 R Cookburn 7-10-0 L D'Hara

TRANERS: G Bechards, 2) witners from 72 namers, 29.2%, G M Moore, 16 from 72, 22.2%, P Mondelth, 10 from 46, 21.7%, A writisens, 3 from 14, 21.4%, J Howard Johnson, 14 from 86, 76.3%, R Allas, 4 from 25, 16.0% JOCKEYS: A Dolban, 25 wanners from 105 rides, 24 8%, D Byrne, 4 from 19, 22.2%, P Mison, 19 from 92, 20.7%; A Thomson, 9 from 96, 16.1%, R Ganitry, 10 from 66, 15.4%; R Geest, 11 from 75, 14.7%

#### WORCESTER

2.25 Distant Storm. 2.55 Mr Strong Gale. 3.25 Barnapour. 4.00 Freno. 4.30 Destin D'Estruval. 5.00

2.25 Brockamin amateur riders selling HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,951: 2m) (12 runners)

EDICAP HURDLE (E1,951: 2m) (12 runners)

245 - FORTANAYS 141 (B.D.B.)5 6 McCourt 9-12-0 D Harmey (7)

-250 GRAD APPLAISE 30 (BF.D.6) M Solaron 7-11-7 JD Moore (7)

37914 HALHAR TARIN 4 (D.S) H Mamery 7-11-2 . A Charles-Annes (7)

4-30 CAPTANI MARNELADE 7 D Thom 8-10-11 ... J Crowley (7)

379- PHRIDSE 244P (D.S) C Jones 7-10-10 ... Mass B Sreal (7)

435- DISTANI STIRMA 47 B Levelyin 4-10-8 ... Miss E J Jones (7)

447- DISTANI STIRMA 47 B Levelyin 4-10-8 ... Miss E J Jones (7)

448- MARRIS (BO) 19 M Shepport 4-10-4 ... O McChrod (7)

449- MARRIS (BO) 19 M Shepport 4-10-4 ... J Contactor (7)

449- RACTERIO COURTY 1989 (D.) J Joseph 9-10-0 ... Miss B Finiter (7)

PGP- ARTTRIA COURTY 1989 (D.) J Joseph 9-10-0 ... Miss B Finiter (7)

PGP- ARTTRIA COURTY 1989 (D.) J McChron 12-10-0 ... R Beves (7)

DOTHER MARRIS COURT (18) B Presco 5-10-0 ... R Beves (7)

Deltare Marriadot 4-1 Marri Rev. 5-1 Haltern Ten. 11-2 Protokers (7) 12 0/0P 0055E5 DAN 13 (B) B Preson 5-10-0 ...

3-1 Capten Mannaiade 4-1 Mary: 800 5-7 Habern Tam, 11-2 Fontables, 6-1 Aldington Chappie 8-1 Grand Apphasse 20-1 Phrose, 25-1 others. 2.55 WARNDON NOVICES CHASE

(£2,955: 2m 7i 110yd) (9)

22,9307. 27ff // 110yO) (9)

489; CHARLES QUAKER 517P M Salaman 7-10-12 Mr Marston
2 482; COOL WEATER 159 (8) (2 Profrem 9-10-12 Mr D McProx (7)
3 F/24 COOL HARD DANCER 25 (5) Mr S Smoth 7-10-12 G F Ryen (5)
4 FOR-100 MARCE 25 (6) F Yamey 10-10-12 Mr Mr Farland
5 14f- MR STRONG GALE 158 (F.5) P Inchest 6-10-12 T J Morphy
2 4-43 P-HARAPE 44 (7-5) E Woodbooks 7-10-12 Mr Mr Milliamon
7 D125 SQUIMERICADSSPAICH 13 (F.6) P 300m f-10-12 Mr Mr Milliamon
8 1-PT THE MPDBWY MRYMEL 7 (6) T George 7-10-12 R Thornton
9 P30- HYDEMILA 316 Mrs T Fillington 7-10-7 G Hogge (3) 11-10 litr Strong Gale, 9-2 Southerntrosspatch 6-1 Planter, 7-1 Cool West 8-1 Con Hard Dancer (0-1 Hydernilla Charles Occies (3-1 other)

3.25 DOMESTIC APPLIANCE DISTRIBUTORS HANDICAL HUNDLE

i-2 Bansspour, 9-2 Séver Standard, 5-1 Enghoric Ricsson, 6-7 Hawker Hunter 7-1 Sharo, 8-1 Cassio's Boy 18-1 Gesty Geol 12-1 Vision Of Freedom,

4.00 DURR FINISHING POST HANDICAP CHASE (£2,655: 2m) (6)

-1 Freso, 7-2 Dr Rocket. Spring Survise, 4-1 Sopermick, 9-1 Indian Run. 20-1 toph Daniels. 4.30 TIBBERTON HANDICAP CHASE C4

(£4,273: 2m 4f 110yd) (5) 1 121- DESTIN D'ESTRIMAL 143 (CD)G) P Recipian 6-12-0 A Magaire 2 165- FRE THYNE 168 (D,C) Mis a Perect 8-11-9 \_\_\_\_ M A PERICON 3 11P- MORKS SCHAME 146 (D,C) E PECANT 9-11-8 \_\_\_\_ M A PECCON 4 23MA ARCREDO 7 (S,CO)E,G) P Excent 10-10-11 \_\_\_\_ W Marston 5 44-6 LAKE OF LOUGHTEA 12 (B,D,F,G) K Belly 7-10-0 N Williamson 13-8 Design D'Esternal, 9-4 Fine Thyrie 4-1 Monits Scham, 9-2 Andretot, 7-1 Laize Of Loughtea.

5.00 LEIGH JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-0: £2,280 2m) (10)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSPS: D (Acholson, 26 circuits from 87 minutes, 29.9%; M Pipe, 46 from 135, 29.7%; P Nicholis, 14 from 97, 24.6%, Misc. V Williams, 4 hom 16, 22.2%; K Badey, 24 from 109, 22.0%; P Hobbs, 25 from 124, 20.2%; P Bowen, 10 from 63, 15.9%. JOCKEYS: A McCoy, 47 winners from 165 (des. 28 5% L Aspelt 4 from 15, 26.7% is Williamson, 28 from 138, 16 7%; A Megnite, 29 from 179, 16.2%. Mr J.L Llewellyn, 4 from 29, 13 8%, T J Marphy 4 from 25, 11 4%.

#### NATIONAL HUNT

#### Bangor

3.10: Miss Roberto 821 22nd to Commanche Court in 2m11 Cheltenham grade I hurdie (good) Saint Chel 20 5th to Muzenberg in 2m Wawick handcap hurdie (good). Termendatio besten a distance tast of 5 to Nigel's Lad in 21:m Arrives robines hurdie (good). Fernánd 171 6th to Rolfe in 2m Straford novice handcap hurdie (good to soft). Tempted beat Lancer 31 in 2m Cortinel novice hurdie good to fam). Tempted beat Lancer 31 in 2m Cortinel novice hurdie good to fam). Solder Mak 331 7th to Lady. Magnum in 2m Wincamfor Juventle novice classing hurdie (good to fam). Vintage: Taltinger 231 3rd to Chestier in 21:m Perth armateurs handicap hurdie (good to fam).

3.40: Real Tonic beal Plumbob nack in 3m11 Herham novice chase (good to firm), Glenfani Princess pulsed up behind Gaelic Blue in 3m Stratford innotcap chase (good) Top Jevalin beaten a distance 2nd to Silvenno in 3 km Newton Abbot handicap chase (heavy) Beyerd if 2nd to Crack On in 2km Chepstow novice chase (cood in firm) Cvrill Henry novice chase (good to firm) Cyrill Henry 91 2nd to Andreiol in 21cm Worcester

handicap chase (good)
4.16: Milleroft Riviera biast No Light 1st in 2m11 Exister novice chase (good to lirm)
Latest Triyne pulled up behind Gravity
Gate in 2m31 Heretord novice handicap chase (soit), Loughdoo 39/5th to Ragtan Road in 3m11 Heretord setting handicap chase (good to firm) Manass beat El Freddle 31 in 2thm Warwick novice hundle (good) Saxon Fair 32/1/3th to Donadus in 2m11 Sedgefield novice handicap hundle (good) Holders Hill 51 2nd to Amiah in 2m Perth novice chase (good to firm). Royal York 4/31 5th to Kinnescash in 2m11 Market Rasen handicap hundle (good). hendicap chase (good)

Maries Haser Hardisa Paridia (good)
4.50: Follow De Call beat key Gro Ni In
2mti Bangor nowce humdle (good) Bulko
Boy 30! 4th to Scariet Rambier in 2m3!
Stratford nowice hundle (good to firm)
Charley Lambert 18! 8th to Mahler in
2½m Ayr nowce handican hundle (good)
Raining Stars 18! 8th to Supreme Charm
in 2½m Stratford nowce hundle (good to
firm) Rythm Rock 2½l 3rd to Morpheus
in 2½m Uttorsete rowce hundle (good to
soit) Treat Me Bold 29! 13th to Salin
Minstrel in 2m Worcester NH Fiat tack Minstell in 2m Worcester NH Flat race (good to soft) The Secret Seven 35 10th to Crazy Horse Dancer in 2½m Uticketer

#### Worcester

3.26: Bernapour beat Royal Circus 341 in 27 m Herstord handicap hundle (good to lim). Hawker Hunter 25i 7hi to Lightening Lad in 2m Towcester novice chase (good to soft). Salver Standard lell 4th behind Edgemoor Pinnoe in 24 m Warwick handicap hundle (good), previously beat Shith Too by comjortable 241 in 24 m Stratford handicap hundle (good Lephonic Illustion 6 ki 3rd to Major's Law in 24 m Bangor handicap hundle (good). Cassio's Boy 291 4th to El Freddie in 3m Ascot handicap hundle (good) of timi Ascot handicap hurdie (good to firm) Skram 6I 2nd to Canton Venture in 21-m Plumpton handsap hurdle (good to limi)
Vision Of Freedom tell 7th ri 24m
Wincanton handsap hurdle won by
Genry's Pride (firm) previously 14/12nd to
Taleihath in 24m Worcester handsap

4.00: Dr Rocket 121 2nd to Cracking Frost in 2m Huntingdon handicap chase (good to firm), Indian Run distant last to Jazzy Refrain in 2m 1.51 Stratford Jezzy Hefrain in 2m 11st Strafford handicap chase (good to firm) Supermock 11st 2nd to Walleng Tall in 21sm Worcester handicap hurdle (good) Spring Sumise looked beaten when falling in closing stages of 21sm Huntling-don nowices chase won by Frazer Carey (good) Franc 61 2nd to Silver Miro in 2m Ultowerer novice handicap hurdle (good to firm) Hugh Daniels 541 5th to This is My Life in 21sm Fontwell nowice chase (good)

4.30: Destin D'Estruval beat Khalidi 1 ilin. 4.50: Destin D'Estruval best Khalid 11 in 21 m Worcaster handloop chase (soft) Fine Thyrine lell 7th behind Kermore-Speed in 21-m Sendown novice handloop chase (good to soft) Monike Sofram on penultimate start, beat Stately Home 11-til n 21-m Stratiod novices chase (good) Andrelot 64-til 4th to Father Sky in 3m Chepstow handloop chase (good to firm) Lake Of Loughrea 47 6th to Cotteen Hero in 2m 31 Exiter handloop chase (good to firm)

#### Second Empire to rule SECOND EMPIRE attempts roup linee Prix de Conde.

to add to his growing reputation in the group one Grand Criterium over a mile at Longchamp tomorrow. Michael Kinane rides the Aidan O'Brien-trained son of Fairy King, who is already as low as 6-i for next year's 2,000 Guineas after his brilliant 212-length defeat of Muhtathir in the group three Prix des Chenes over course and dis-

tance four weeks ago. Thief Of Hearts, who was beaten over ten lengths into fourth, has franked that form by landing last weekend's Goodwood last month.

With the testing ground likely to suit. Second Empire should maintain his unbeaten record. Carrowkeel, trained by Bar-

ry Hills and ridden by Frankie Dettori, and David Morley's Alhoostan, the mount of Richard Hills, represent Britain in the fivestrong field. Stamina doubts surround Carrowkeel, who has never run beyond six furlongs, while Alboostan is stepping up significantly in class on his success in a listed race over this trip at



Tomorrow HOCKEY

Gertratic Cross: Stames v City of Oxford: Similarly v Hendlon.

NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Ben Friydding v Wigan, Chester v Timperley; Durtism University v Southport: Harrogate v Shelffeld Bachers: Neston v Swakwell; Norton v Formby!

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division as Bentlon s Stortford v Colchester; Curribridge University v Crossyx; Clacton v ipswith Luton Town v Petrolandingh Town Suchury v Cambridge City Premier division B. Segland v Ipswich and East Suitolia. Buy St Edmunds v Denetram; Fachtrage and Mord v Norwich City; St Ives v Old Sculteradism, West Frents v Romford.

BASKETBALL Buthwesser League: Crystal Felane v Derby Storm (7.30), Westord Royar v Mancroster Glams (7.30), Worthing Scars v Birmanners (8.0) Boxino, Work Boxino, Work Boxino, Cichari, Goganication super-middle-seight championship instantic Cichari, Goganical v Jebesh (Neutraloge), WBO super-leadhenweight championship in Hamod (3.66664, hadder) v J Basillo (P Root) WBO light-middle-seight championship (9.66msutor), O Gran (Can) v R Rhodes (Sheffeld) WBO inter-continental super-featherweight championship Neutral (1.00 (Grantia) (1.00 (Grantia) (Granti

## HEXHAM

2.20 Mister Ross, 2.50 Eponine, 3.20 Whitegates Willie, 3.55 Flying North, 4.25 Ballyline, 4.55 Jubran.

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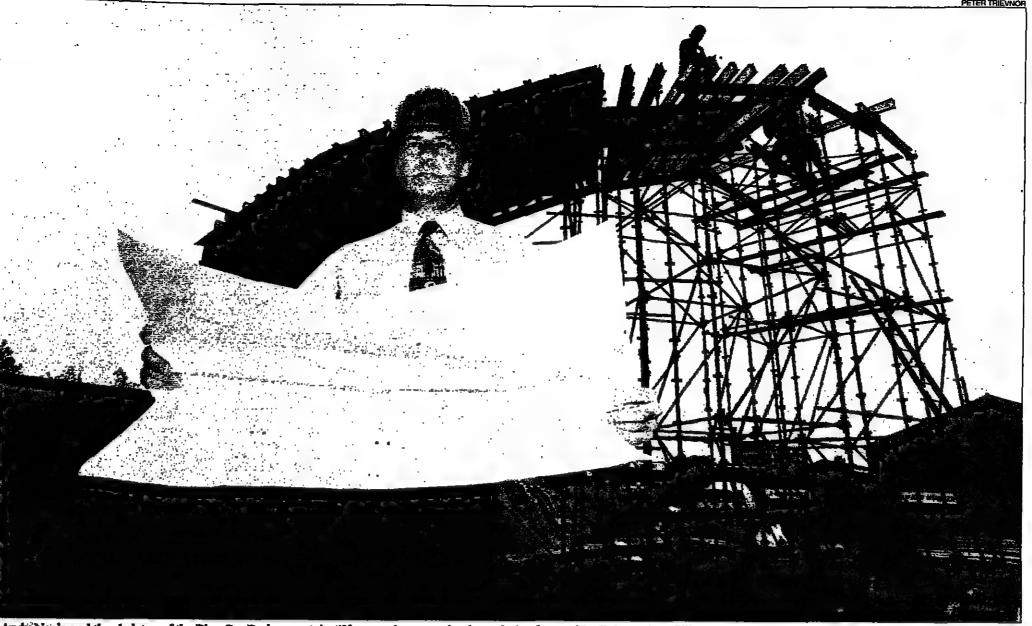
Page 49



If you can't stand the heat.

Page 49

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 1997



Andy Neale and the skeleton of the Blue Car Park mountain: "If we work at capacity through the show, with all the makers filling all the seats, I reckon we can take 15,000 people round"



Descending: Land Rover Discovery





Up the paper mountain: Ford Explorer



## It's rising to the occasion

Alan Copps on the 'mountain' that

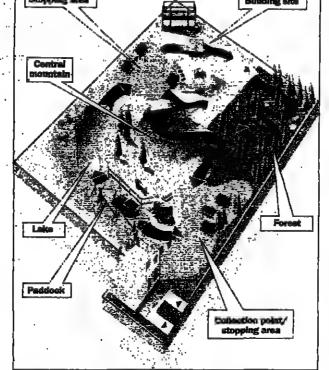
will show what your 4x4 can really do

scenic artist Christina Nash will be putting the finishing touches to her mountain as you read this. It will feature heather, rock and a capping of snow. As high as a house, it stands in the unlikely setting of London W8. For Christina's mountain is the centrepiece of the off-road course being built for the London Motor Show that opens on Wednesday at Earls Court. Together with a small lake, a building site, picnic area, miniature pine forest

and a somewhat disorderly

f the weather is kind. folding mountain stands in what is usually called the "Blue car park". It is designed to demonstrate to prospective purchasers the off-road capab-ility of the four-wheel-drive vehicles on the stands of

several manufacturers. As off-road courses go, it's hardly in the Premier League, but as a motor show experience it beats collecting brochures any day. There's a certain irony in this artificial rough-riding taking place in West London. A few miles further West, in the leafy suburbs, one of the phenome-



where else in the land: the 4x4 full of kids trundling through the traffic provides a focus for discontent among motorists attempting any distance greater than the average school run. Industry estimates are that

signed to take rock, dust, water, snow, mud and slime in their stride, will never leave the Tarmac. Of those that do go off-road, few will be required to get further than the grassy fringe of a sports arena

But however often this contradiction is pointed out, the sales of 4x4s go on growing. For what these vehicles offer is not so much transport as the "leisure-oriented lifestyle" beloved of motoring marketing men. You may never plug mud in earnest, but the fact that your vehicle can conveys to friends and neighbours the impression that you are the adventurous sort.

The motor show mountain was sketched out by Andy Neale, managing director of D and S Events, an offshoot of Drive and Survive, the specialists in driver training. The 10 vehicles that will be climbing its 28 degree slope, fording its shallow lake and traversing skips full of rubble on builders' planks will be driven by instructors more used to the testing territory around the Transport Research Laboratory in Berkshire where D and S is based. For safety and insurance reasons, would-be buyers will be carried as passengers, not allowed to drive themselves in unfamiliar vehicles up the paper mountain and down the floodlit glen.

So far six manufacturers have signed up to the project. Land Rover will provide three vehicles, Ford two, Mitsubishi two and Ssanyong, Isuzu and Subaru one each. "If we work at capacity through the ten

makers filling all the seats in their vehicles. I reckon we can take 15,000 people round this

course, says Neale. Paul Robson, project director, says the idea is to give anyone seriously interested in a vehicle just a taste of what it could do. "All they've got to do is book in on the show stand, come down the steps at the back of Hall 2 and we'll take them around. The mountain is 12 metres high and contains 4,000 metres of scaffolding, covered in builders' wire-rein-

forced paper and then sprayed

in polyurethane foam. There will be 80 trees, ranging in height from two to 6.5 metres and tons of turf, bark and rock. If it works we would hope it could become a regular

feature of the motor show. The course was sketched by Neale and Robson before being engineered by Kevin Hayden, whose company Media Structures specialises on such fantasy contructions. to carry 212 tons. The whole project has been designed to pass any test set by environ-mentalists; the trees would

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have been felled anyway in the thinning of a commercial wood, the turf, bark and rock will all be reused.

Nash, who expects to use 400 litres of paint adding to the finished appearance Mount Earls Court, says: "I've done castles and villages before, but never a mountain. I looked at the plan briefly to get the feel of it, but it's mainly in my head. We're going to have a nice deep well at the top and a waterfall down into the lake to circulate the water."

Work started a week ago. Says Neale: "We've got II days to build it, which should be enough even if the weather turns against us.

The real test comes at the end. We've got just two days after the show to get rid of it. We'll start the moment the show's over and work through

#### 90 per cent of the vehicles sold I've seen the future and it's old hat

The London Motor Show is not racing towards 2000, says Kevin Eason

s the motor industry turns the corner into the millennium, will there be battery-powered clean cars or will we shoot along motorways in electronic convoys? The London Motor Show will surely reveal all, cast as it is just a pebble's throw from the dawning of the new century and a world in which technology can solve all our problems to take us the generational leap away from the clattering internal combustion engine.

Or not. For it seems many will still be lugging the kids to school in a vehicle that would look more at home on a futuristic battlefield than in the high street, according to a lineup which looks thin on leaps and big on minor hops along the motoring catwalk. Carmakers are showing faith in the future of the 4x4 with the only genuine new or concept vehicles at the show in the offroad department.

Start with the star of the show, the Land Rover Freelander, which will dominate the attention of thousands of visitors as the first all-new Land Rover for a decade since the launch of the immenseley

successful Discovery. But Isuzu and Chrysler are giving us a glimpse of what is to come as we move into the second century of the motor car in Britain. And it is all depressingly familiar.

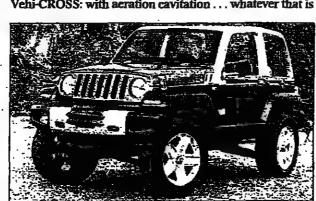
The Chrysler Icon is a reworking of the famous Wrangler, though, to be honest, it looks like a 4x4 with bumpy bits, something you would buy your 10-year-old son for Christmas, only scaled up for adults. Apparently, the vehicle has been "freshened", but you can bet a pound to a barrel of mud that this latest off-roader shares more than lookalike design gizmos with just about everything else

coming on to the market.
Nothing new under the bonnet apparently, but one of the designers was inspired by a camper's backpack so the seats are made of exposed aluminium tubes with washable leather upholstery. another by mountain bikes. Rest assured though, you don't

need to do any pedalling. For those of you who enjoy bouncing around in fields (in a 4x4 that is), you will notice a plethora of these chunkybumpered jobs coming to mar-



Vehi-CROSS: with acration cavitation . . . whatever that is



Chrysler Icon: it looks like a 4x4 with added bumpy bits

Englishman Simon Cox in his

studio near Birmingham, the

Vehi-CROSS (no explanation

for the capital letters, and it is

pronouned Vee-cross, so there)

ket as you consider your next purchase. An analogy featuring sheep and car designers springs to mind at this moment though I can't think for the life of me why.

Until studying pictures of the Isuzu, which will feature large on company's Earls Court stand. Designed by However, the company wants to find out what the reaction would be here before roader. The answer will probably be positive, though you will be wondering where the vehicle exhibits the sort of new technology we crave to enter

7 ell, the inevitable satellite navigation, a rear-mounted video camera that sends pictures up to the driver, and a stylised carbon fibre rev counter and speedometer plus a dial telling you what proportion of drive is being fed to which axle. All that to go the shops.

Come with me to the magical world of Isuzu suspension and I leave you here contemplating the forthcoming show with this description of the Vehi-CROSS's system, the first to use a "piggyback reservoir", ringing in your ears. This is the Brave New World: "When Vehi-CROSS encounters a bump, the road shock forces the gas and oil to be separated within the unit, giving en-hanced damping characteristics by eliminating aeration

is already available in Japan. creating long waiting lists, according to Isuzu. This is a should ask the Isuzu represen-tative on stand Fo. Good luck. nation that thinks a poisonous

There is one thing, however.

cavitation." Those interested in more details of aeration cavitation



To coincide with the London Motor 1 Show, readers of The Times can take advantage of a £3-off entry voucher (the normal price is £10). Your voucher can be used on either Monday, October 20 or Friday, October 24. Simply present the voucher at the ticket office when you arrive at the show. With 48 car manufacturers exhibiting

all their new cars, including an outstanding number of UK launches, the London Motor Show promises to be better than ever.

It will be a great day out and includes the Top Gear stage where you can enjoy the antics of your favourite presenters and have a chance to be

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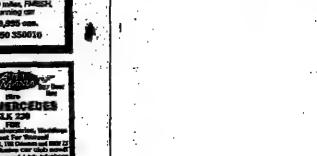
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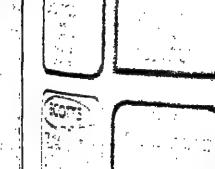
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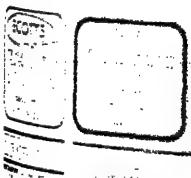
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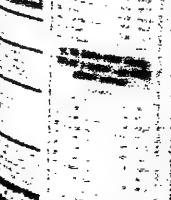


















We cannot have people being mown down in the streets just to preserve the profits of breweries or the lifestyles of people living in cottages

## Towards a country of zero tolerance

here were 36,647 people at Anfield when Liverpool beat Chelsea last weekend, almost exactly the number of people whose lives are estimated to have been saved by the introduction of the drinkdriving law 30 years ago. That anniversary, on Thursday, was a peg on which to hang all sorts of claims and counter-claims to do with the strengths and weaknesses

of the existing law.

Nell Kinnock, the European
Union Transport Commissioner. is among those who wants the limit reduced, and he also wants harmonisation across the EU. Baroness Hayman, the British minister with responsibility for road safety, is on record as favouring a reduction in the limit and The Times reported this week that the Government wants the

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

limit reduced to the equivalent of one beer. Transport ministry officials were cagey when I spoke to them, saying only that the situa-tion was "under review", a timehonoured Civil Service term meaning something is about to

point out that the Kinnock option is in fact just a warming up of a draft directive produced by Brus-sels almost a decade ago. The one-beer limit would proba-

bly mean reducing from 80mgs to 50mgs the level of alcohol allowed in the body. This is already the limit in Belgium, France, Holland and Portugal. Some other countries have higher limits, one or two allow no drinking at all. Mr Kinnock is capsible to seek a Europe. nock is sensible to seek a Europe-wide agreement, but of course the risk is of a Euro fudge. But the prospect of politicians being able to agree a single European currency without agreeing a single Euro-pean drink-drive limit is the ultimate absurdity.

My own belief is that the limit might as well be reduced to zero, thus making a reality of Britain's

long-running slogan: Don't drink and drive. That way we would all know where we stood. I sometimes drive after drinking a pint of beer, but it is undeniable that if two pints can impair one's ability to drive then one, or half, or a quarter, must also do so. The effect of alcohol is cumulative; it cuts in at a certain level.

There will be lots of opposition to a cut in the limit, but there was lots of opposition when Barbara Castle

introduced the breath test 30 years ago. The main motoring organisations were against it. Breweries were against it. People living in rural areas said it would be the death of the country pub, which happens, 30 years later, to be one

of the few rural businesses that is

I find the rural argument especially daft. Country dwellers say that further drink-drive restrictions interfere with their right to enjoy themselves, because there is little public transport in the counmy. Breweries bleat about loss of business. But we cannot have

people being mown down in the streets just to preserve the profits of breweries or the lifestyles of

people living in cottages. When I lived in London I drank more than I do now that I live in a village, I drove less then, so I drank more. But most of us who drive cars have learnt to drink moderately, or even not at all, over the years. The estimated 1,200 lives a year saved by the drinking limit are testimony to the huge cultural change since the breath test was introduced. There remains a hard core of drunk drivers, but they are

social lepers now.
In strict legal terms there is already a zero limit on drinking and driving in that the police are not limited by the breath test in the measures they can take. There is an offence of "driving whilst impaired", which can be brought whether or not a driver passes the breath test, its weakness being that impairment is notoriously difficult

So we are heading for a tougher limit. Will it stop the hardcore drunk drivers? This is the weakness, for the (mostly middle-aged) people who persist in drinking to excess before they drive are very hard to persuade. But at least they

## Alfa still faces quality barrier

THE FIRST and second gear changes were fine as I acceleraway in Alfa Romeo's new 156, writes Alan Copps. But changing up again, the gear knob came off in my hand and a spring from inside pinged across the cabin. A little later as I changed with the bare gear stick the gaiter

and cover came away.

Not the kind of thing any manufacturer wants on a launch. Not so along such an incident might have been greeted with the comment "Well it is an Alfa ..." Diehard enthusiasts for the marque were used to such foibles. But only minutes before Roberto Testori, chief executive of the Italian car

#### ROAD TEST

hard the company had worked to monitor quality control at its new factory near Naples.

To be fair, mine appeared to be an isolated incident among more than 1,000 journalists at the car's international launch. Embarrassed officials suggested it was the result of a rushed repair by a mechanic on the spot rather than a factory fault.

But it illustrates how hard Alfa has to work if it is going to pitch this car as a real rival to the BMW 3-Series. The will to mount such a challenge is clearly there and so is the raw material. The greatest virtue of the 156 is its handling,



almost a match for the company's GTV coupé, and the styling is striking. Instruments are clear, controls neat and much attention has been paid to safety. The engineers have combined Alfa's sporting style and reputation with comfort and quietness.

The big reservation must be about the interior. There's too much black plastic all over the dashboard and the plastic wood surround of the centre console looks simply tacky.

ALFA ROMEO 156 Engines: 1.8 Twin Spark producing 144bhp at 6.500rpm; 2-litre Twin Spark, 155bhp at 6,400rpm: 2.5-litre V6, 190bhp at 6,300rpm. Performance: 1.8-litre 0-62mph 9.3 sec, 2-litre 8.6 sec, V6 7.3

sec. Top speed, I.S-litre 130mph, 2-litre 135mph,

2.5-litte I-40mmh.

#### Interest rates set low

1F YOU are looking for spectacular entertainment, try the movies because new models at the London Motor Show are unlikely to keep the kids interested for long, writes Kevin Eason.

Important though they are, only enthusiasts will want to queue up to gawp at the latest VW Golf, Vauxhall Astra and Citroën Xsara. New, but definitely not high on sex appeal. Land Rover brings the top goodies with the UK launch of

the Freelander, not in showrooms until January, while Jaguar has its new V8powered saloons — though you won't be able to tell that from just looking over the



rails of the exhibition stand. Ford is wheeling out its truly entertaining MC2 concept, a bust. Kia of South Korea is coupé based on Mondeo showing its new Mondeomechanicals but with Dan sized model, codenamed Dare styling. d'Arts, which it promises for Shrugging off worries after

release here next year. the parent company went Porsche is bringing the new

911, something to drool over, while Mercedes will introduce the only truly revolutionary car on show, the A-class, which redefines the small car.

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## Across Iran, and the heat is on

ur arrival in Iran produced a total change of scene. All our female crew members had to cover up from top to toe with shawls over their heads, and we men were

not allowed to wear shorts. The drive out of Pakistan was through hauntingly re-tracte desert — no place to break down — and temperatures soured (in old money, 112F in the shade). Once we crossed into Iran, we pounded vastly better roads through the Great Salt Desert, but cars and crews endured blisteringly unbearable heat. The briendly reception given out to all 24 nationalities, including

our 30 Americans, was bertered by no other country so far. We get coupons for free fuel from the Iranian Motor Federation, and the back-up includes medical services and free garage servicing at all

Tony Fowkes and Tim Riley head up two teams of mechanics, with paramedics and a rally doctor, and have pro-duced some truly remarkable Lord Montagu

and survivors. reach the edge

of Europe on the marathon Peking to Paris rally.

feats of fettling which have transformed the rally and is perhaps the real reason why more than 80 of us survived the Himalayas.

Unlike modern rallying, there are no spare dumps or regular service halts to attend to our every need. But without Tony or Tim helping out, this event would be vastly different Local workshops which have never seen a classic car find simple engineering much to their taste — so an Aston Martin has had two new axle shafts made from solid lumps of metal in Lahore, a Bentley has been plugged up with Opal Fruit sweets to stop a

sored Volvo have endured all sorts of problems, including days in Tibet with no springs or shock absorbers at the back at all, but they are smiling again now the car has all new suspension and are setting after two American girls in their Hillman Hunter. Rally leader is Phil Surtees in an amazing Jeep, who holds a four-minute lead over two Americans in a Ford Club Coupé of 1950, but there is a Cortina, a Hunter and even a Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn in the top ten and the final lap up through Europe could see many changes. Most pleasing is the perfor-

leaking fuel rank, and the yellow MG YB saloon has had the crank reground just three

thousandths of an inch to fit

Toyota's big end shelves. When you read this, we will

have enjoyed a day's rest in Istanbul. We crossed Iran

from one side to the other to

become the first motor rally to

do this since the 1977 London-

Sydney Marathon. After yet more fettling, we set out for the

sting in the tail promised by a

course right down the centre of

Greece, over classic roads

from the old Acropolis Rally.

esults of note? Fran-

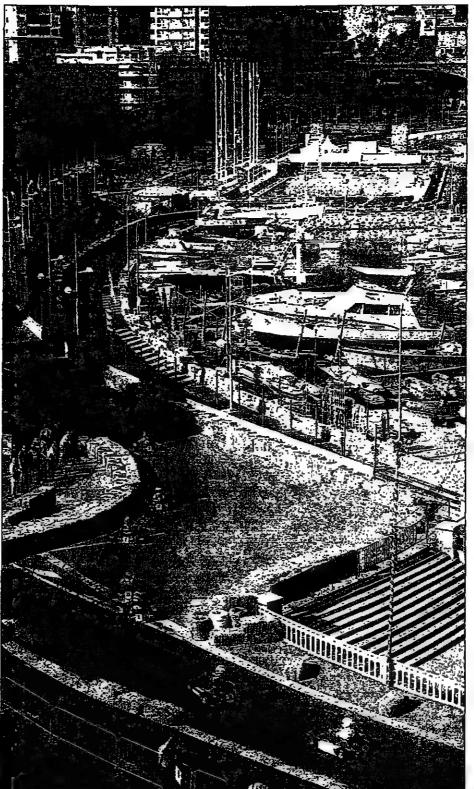
cesca Sternberg and

Jennifer Gillies in the

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mance of cars given no hope of getting anywhere by the punits at the start at the Great Wall of China. For example, all the vintage Bentleys, the British Racing Green looking very mud-stained and battleweary now, are performing magnificently; never mind the top ten, their drivers never seem to stop grinning from ear to ear — whatever the fatigue thrown at them by this most amazing route. Next Saturday we survivors

puli up on the Place de la Concorde in the centre of Paris, just like Prince Borghese's drive in what became the world's first-ever rally in 1907. Morag Preston watches tomorrow's generation of race stars burn rubber at Monte Carlo



In the shadow of the casino, the Monaco Cup circuit is as tight as the grand prix track

### Kart track to Formula One

arno Trulli turned up two days in a row to watch the Monaco Cup, biggest of the karting championships and recognised breeding ground for Formula One.

Along with Ayrton Senna, David Coulthard, Johnny Herbert and Michael Schumacher, Trulli started his career in karts: "I owe every-thing to karting. Some of these kids will be the top drivers of the future."

Colin McRae, the former world rally champion, who lives a spanner's throw from the circuit in Monte Carlo, wanted to know what all the bloody noise was about". But when he realised it

was karting he stopped for a clo-ser look: "It's the same as Formula One, but on a teaches you how to

In the shadow of the casino, the Monaco Cup circuit is as tight as the

grand prix track. Reaching 80mph, the championship is high-octane fuel for youthful ambition. The prize is only a token trophy, but it is the fast track to Formula One. Among the world's top 40

karters invited to take part was Luke Hines. 15-year-old son of Martin, a name synonymous with karting. Three times world champion, Hines Snr now heads Hertfordshirebased manufacturers Zip Kart and looks after a promising team of British juniors, the Young Guns.

Last year, racing at junior level, Luke had come a valiant fifth. This year he was racing as a senior, competing against drivers up to 35 years old.

Unlike a lot of young chargers, who start competing as young as seven, Luke did not take up the sport until his ninth year, having spent the early part of his life in and out

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tractor two years later and doctors feared he might never walk again. But after a series of operations, he recovered --only to be struck with ME. Nothing has been easy in his life, but he knows that the worst is now over," says his father. "Whatever else hap-

pens is a bonus." Long and lean, like his father. Luke uses a personal trainer to help strengthen his upper body. "What I like about karting is the speed and that feeling of being under pressure," he says. "I try to start with a clear head, and think about what I want to do pass two people

per lap."

But in the first 'What I like heat. Luke noseis the speed kart pile-up: In the second, the chain and that snapped on his £3,000 kart. Angry feeling of and frustrated, he wandered head pressure' down into a comer

> they waited for the results to be posted. They knew already that he would be starting the pre-final at the

with his father as

eantime, their heats over, two British ju-🎩 niors were off for an afternoon's fishing. Michael Conway, 14, who started karting after his father spotted an advertisement in a local newspaper, ended up with second place in the final. His former team-mate Michael Spencer. 14, who came third overall. said: "Racing is the easy bit. It's waiting for the results that

and the landmark swimming pool, the designer T-shirt and shorts crowd turned out for the final. Luke moved up from 33rd to 15th place and ended up ninth overall. The winner, was France's Martine Salignon - the next Prost?



Iranian drivers Ramin Khadem, left, and Mohsen Ijad

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#### **BLAST FROM PAST 56**

Millions may clamour for a return to Serps

## WEEKEND

#### **BITTER PILL 53**

Rising cost of private medical care



## Temptations of sterling's giddy rise

Patrick Collinson looks at the pitfalls lying in wait

for an inexperienced foreign currency speculator

he average cost of a beer in a Majorca bar in 1996 was £1.30, but this summer it had fallen to just 80p, according to a price check by Thomas Cook. Car hire is down in price from £154.25 to £101.50, while suntan lotion is just £3.65, compared with £5.05 a

The reason is sterling's phenomenal post-election surge. Sterling's giddy rise — and a widespread belief that it has overshot in value - has tempted a lot of people to consider seriously doing a little amateur currency speculation.

Although the experts agree that sterling remains overvalued - so buying French francs now for February's skiing holiday may make sense - they shudder at the thought of stayat-home investors attempting to play the currency markets.

For example, an investor might exchange £1,000 into marks at the current rate of around DM2.86 to the pound in the expectation of sterling entering the euro at the rate of DM2.65 in a couple of years' time. Even if such a fall in the pound occurs, switching the marks back into pounds would give the investor a profit of just £79. After subtracting foreign exchange charges and the interest that

the money would otherwise have earned the profit all but disappears.

could open a foreign currency account at a bank, which will pay a rate of interest depending on the currency. Lloyds Bank, for example, offers personal currency accounts in all charge of £00 per year plus banking charges for cash and cheques paid in or out.

Flemings and other fund managers also offer depositstyle accounts, which pay the interest rate applicable to the local currency. But a glance at the interest rate paid by Fiemings on foreign currency deposit reveals that sterling, at 5.1 per cent, is far higher than for any other major currency. Leaving money in marks earns an interest rate of only

Remember, to gain from putting money into a foreign currency deposit, sterling has to weaken against the currency. If sterling strengthens, then the investor can suffer a double whammy, losing out when the money is translated back into sterling and missing out on higher UK rates.

An alternative to opening a foreign currency account is to invest in a currency fund, either on a single currency or mixed (managed) currency basis. Several of the major investment houses offer currency funds, which tend to be based in offshore centres such as Jersey. Guernsey, Bermuda

and Luxembourg. But far from offering highrisk, high-reward speculative funds, the investment managers promote currency funds to investors as a means to reduce and diversify risk.

a range of 13 single currency tors could trade in and out of funds but is very keen to our funds to maximise re-discourage small investors turns, but it is not something from using them for specula- we recommend."

tion. It focuses instead on the tax benefits of, say, using a currency fund to save for

Income in an offshore currency fund such as Fidelity's Bermuda funds is rolled up tax-free, and UK investors are not liable for income tax until shares are switched or sold. If the investor sells shares after leaving the UK for retirement on the Costa del Sol, the gains

will be exempt from UK tax. Closer to the idea of making money by dealing in currencies is the managed currency fund, which actively invests in a wide range of currencies to maximise gains from both currency movements and interest rates over the medium term. But don't expect George Soros-style returns.

more than E) billion speculating against sterling as it was ejected from the ERM. but Rothschild Asset Management and Guinness Flight Hambro, both large players in the managed currency fund field, emphasise the importance of longer-term investing.

Philip Saunders, of Guinness Flight, says: "A lot of people think of currency dealing in terms of a frenetic City dealing room. But currency funds should really be seen as super-cash funds and as part of a balance of assets across bonds and equities. A managed currency fund aims to preserve the value of your cash in foreign currencies and is generally less volatile than

bond or equity funds." Tom Barman, the Rothschild money fund manager. said: "We take a conservative approach and don't manage Fidelity, for example, offers on a short-term basis. Inves-



Sliding scale: buying francs now to pay for February's skiing holiday may make sense but there are risks to do-it-yourself currency speculation

THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE

huge current account deficit.

Rothschild: We expect sterling to

weaken to between \$1.45 and \$1.55

WILL sterling continue to edge down from its peaks, or is it preparing to surge forward again? Weekend Money asked Rothschild Asset Management and Guinness Flight, the currency fund managers, for their forecasts for the major trading currencies.

STERLING Guloness Flight: In the medium term sterling is overvalued and is likely to fall. The high interest rate

differential between sterling and

tive, but as this unwinds (as interest rates rise elsewhere) sterling will

Rothschild: Our main message is that the sharp appreciation of sterling after the election was a significant overshoot from fair value. But we don't expect sterling's decline to be as dramatic as its rise.

other currencies has made it attrac- Guinness Flight: We expect near- over the next year.

European currencies, although not against sterling. It is now over-

Guinness Flight: The mark has strengthened recently. We expect it bought -- the US is still the world's to continue to strengthen against the biggest debtor nation and has a dollar and the yen. In the longer term, a slow-growth, low-interest rate Europe is not supportive of the continue to trade against the dollar in the \$1.55 to \$1.65 region for the next few months. It will probably

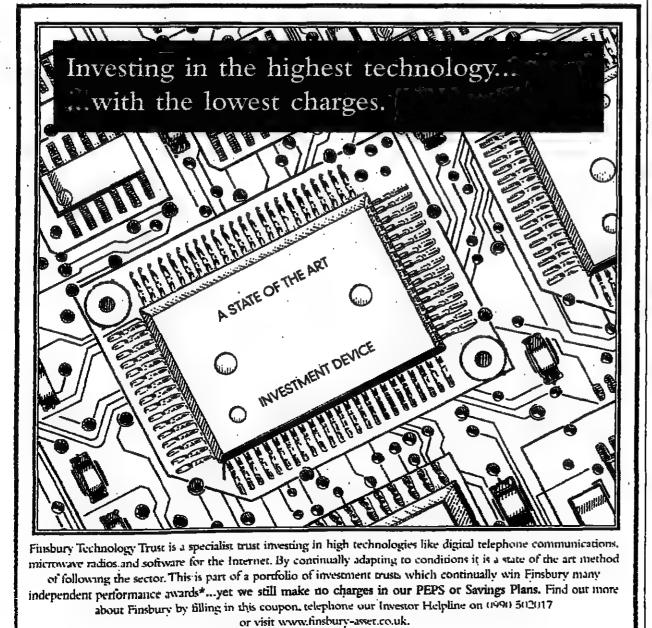
Rothschild: We expect more conver-gence trading as European monetary union approaches. Against the mark and other core European around 175.

currencies, the pound is fundamentally overvalued.

Guinness Flight: After a strong rally, the yen is flat on its back again. It is a cheap currency, but until the economy shows signs of a sustained recovery, it will remain soft.

Rothschild: The yen has been

trading against sterling at around 195 to 205 to the pound, and we expect it to appreciate. The rate against sterling could come back to



oup of the Year 1996. To Five Year Incomment Trust totaller groups Micropal Award, Money Observer New International Trust Award 1997.

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Jill Insley looks at a high-yield corporate bond fund and its research-orientated manager

## Newton's new high-flyer



arren Buffert's speciacu-lar move of \$2 billion two weeks ago has encouraged should follow suit. As the UK stock market suffered another week of volatility an increasing number of City pundits believe it is time to take profits and switch into steadier areas of investment.

no doubt hoping to cash in on this sentiment by launching a new corporate bond fund - the High Yield Bond unit trust.

The fund is designed for income seekers, paying an initial yield of 7.6 per cent gross in monthly yield will be variable, but Newton aims to produce a yield I per cent to 1.5 per cent greater than that of ten-year gilts. The High Yield Bond fund also qualifies for inclusion in a personal equity

The High Yield Bond fund will be managed by Helena Morrissey, who has worked in the bond markets for ten years, starting her career at Schroders in New York three days before the 1987 crash.

Since her move to Newton in London, she has managed the Newton International Bond Fund. which has top quartile perfor-mance over one, three and five years in the international fixed interest sector.

Independent financial advisers agree that the fund's 4 per cent initial charge and I per cent annual charge are reasonable. The annual charge will be taken from capital, so as to maximise the income that can be paid out to

However, Graham Hooper of Chase de Vere Investments is worried about the fund's investment content. Newton claims this is the first UK-based corporate bond fund to invest in European and UK high yield corporate debt. Junk bonds is a more familiar

Corporate bonds are "IOUs" issued by companies that want to raise money without borrowing from a bank. The company usualmoney - investors capital - on a set date, and in the meantime

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Helena Morrissey aims for a portfolio of 50 bond holdings with a 2 per cent limit in any one

pays regular fixed amounts of

The quality of a bond is determined by many factors. These include the amount of interest it pays, whether it is backed with some sort of asset such as property, and perhaps most importantly the company's ability to repay its debt.

Moodys and Standard & Poor's, the rating agencies, specialise in assessing the ability of companies to repay their bonds. The "safest" bonds are given an AAA rating. However, these are few and far between, and many corporate band Peps buy AA or A-rated

generate the desired yield she per cent more than the going rate

must invest half the fund's money in bonds, which have a BB rating or less. Such bonds are classed as "sub-investment grade", because the rating agencies believe there is a higher risk of the companies that have issued the bonds de-faulting on their debts. The market in this type of bond is still in its infancy in Europe, although well-

established in the US. Higher risk bonds cost less to buy and tend to pay higher rates of interest to attract investors. For example, the fund's portfolio currently includes a £65 million unrated bond issued by Eco-Bat Technologies, a small UK comfor ten-year gilts. In comparison. Tesco has issued an AA-rated bond redeemable in 2007, that pays just 0.48 per cent more than

n-year gilts. Mrs Morrissey points out that the only bond to run into real problems in the recent past was an A-rated bond issued by Barings. She said: "People take false comfort from ratings. I won't set a minimum grade for bonds in the portfolio. I believe in having a bond that is correctly valued rather than one which has a high

To control the level of risk, Mrs Morrissey aims to boild up a nortfolio of about 50 bond hold-But Mrs Morrissey says that to issued a ten-year bond that pays 2 ings, with no more than 2 per cent Products graded from \* (poor), to of the fund's value in any one \*\*\* (ourstanding)

that the increased element of risk will deter many of the elderly investors who typically buy units in corporate bond funds.

He said: "The whole thing about these funds is that they are low-risk. The inclusion of subinvestment grade bonds is an added worry. We would want to know much more about Helena investment experience.

Chase de Vere Investments is more likely to recommend the use of Commercial Union's Monthly Income Plus Pep, which pays out a similar monthly income but has a more conventional portfolio of corporate bonds, preference shares, convertibles and the income shares of split capital invest-

No more than 0.65 per cent of the fund is invested in any particular holding, and the portfo-lio typically invests in 160 stocks and shares.

ike Neumann, of BESt Investment, indepen-dent financial advisers, disagrees with Mr Hooper's asessment. He points out that even f a company does collapse, bond holders usually come near to the front of the queue for money when the company's assets are realised. He says: "People overestimate the downside risk. This is debt, not equity. If you were investing in the shares of the companies, it might be a different matter.

Mrs Morrissey wants to invest in something she can apply her ing in her expertise, and I think she has the capability to do well with this fund."

Douglas Gardner of Thomson's Financial Planning, independent financial adviser, is unlikely to recommend the purchase of any corporate bond Peps. He believes their future tax treatment is uncertain since the Government's decision to introduce a new taxefficient savings scheme in 1999. The up-front charges, therefore, could outweigh Peps' tax advaniges in the meantime.

He recommends that income seekers consider short-term returns of up to 6.5 per cent (net of basic rate tax) from insurance company guaranteed income bonds. Those aged 60 or more can get 7 per cent gross, fixed for five years from National Savings Pensioners Bonds. Interest is paid gross but subject to tax, and must

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## Bright tomorrow includes us out

on the London Stock Exchange is scheduled to start changing yet again. Instead of brokers telephoning wholesale market-makers, after checking who is quoting the best price on the electronic quotation system, orders will be posted on an electronic noticeboard where they can be taken or matched.

Naturally, it is not as simple as that. The new system initially applies only to the blue chips that make up the FTSE 100 share index. And it will not apply to small investors whose orders will be dealt with via electronic links to the wholesalers, now confusingly called retail service providers.

Actually, it is not as simple as that

either. If I have grasped it, deals in more than 1,000 shares, usually worth £4,000 plus but in theory £1,000 or less, may optionally be put on the electronic order book, though they will prob-

ably not be. And some gate small orders into big ones that are traded at the best price on offer. So even modest private investors could be caught by the sort of sneaky and ruthless

tactics that schoolchildren are told do not exist on the Stock Exchange. The snake in the grass strategy, for instance, involves entering orders at prices well adrift from "market" in the hope that some unwary mug will be snared. Such risks would become more potent if the new form of trading were used for smaller stocks that do not have a steady flow of orders. But that may never happen. For now, the main risks in

electronic trading will be borne by professionals. Brokers will try to make sure that their private clients are affected only by the advantages. Richard Hunter, of NatWest Stockbrokers, argues that small investors should see no practical difference, except that the benefit of reform should filter through to them in narrower spreads between buying and selling prices.

You cannot help noticing, however, that this is another change that has been driven by the needs of big institutional and international investors. Small investors have been tagged on at the end, even though they make the majority of trades. We were squeezed out of most new also spawned Crest, the more eff-

ne week hence, the method of buying and selling shares ment system and the new gilt-edged settlement system. Allowance was made for individuals there too. But Crest, along with the popularity of Peps, accelerated economic pressure to deal via nominees.

Use of nominee holdings has separated shareholders from the companies they invest in. When did a company last try to contact you through a nominee holding? Attempts to make the nominee screen transparent, so that investors receive communications from the company and have normal non-financial rights, are having only limited success. Registrars may guarantee these rights to shares held in a company's corporate nominee, which is an improvement, but that hardly covers the issue.

Someone has to pay the costs of these services. You might think quoted companies would be delighted to embrace anyone enthusiastic

shareholders contrast to

hour consultants, let alone the board. Summary accounts, often patronisingly inadequate, were dreamt up and foisted on many investors. Privatised groups wanted to save money on bloated registers of tiny holdings. Creative work has been done by a group of companies, now taken up by the Accounting Standards Board, to design better annual reports to serve both private is not a high priority for industry.

Few, if any, quoted companies entice I per cent of their shareholders to an annual presentation. Nor is there any clamour to reach investors through a dedicated company television channel. Such indifference to smaller fry is understandable when half a dozen institutions with the instincts of a wasp in a sweet shop may control a company's fate. That is, however, because more loyal private investors have been given the cold shoulder.

Boards should answer one key question. Would they prefer private shareholders to sell and go collective or to be persuaded to double their individual holdings? Either way, they their decision and act upon it.

from their own pocket to PERSONAL become a INVESTOR part-owner. seen as a costnuisance. GRAHAM Money spent communicat-SEARJEANT ing with small

owhealthy is a

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## 113 **MARKS & SPENCER GUARANTEED** CAPITAL INVESTMENT **PLAN** ISSUE

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Following the July 1997 Budget the future of PEPs is uncurrant. The Character of the Erchequer has announced that a new tax-printleged vehicle, the Individual Savings Account (ISA), will be introduced during 1999. The current can benefits for PEPs will continue until Sch April 1999 and the Government is new working on proposals for ISAs and the conversion of PEPs, TESSAs and other types of savings into ISAs.

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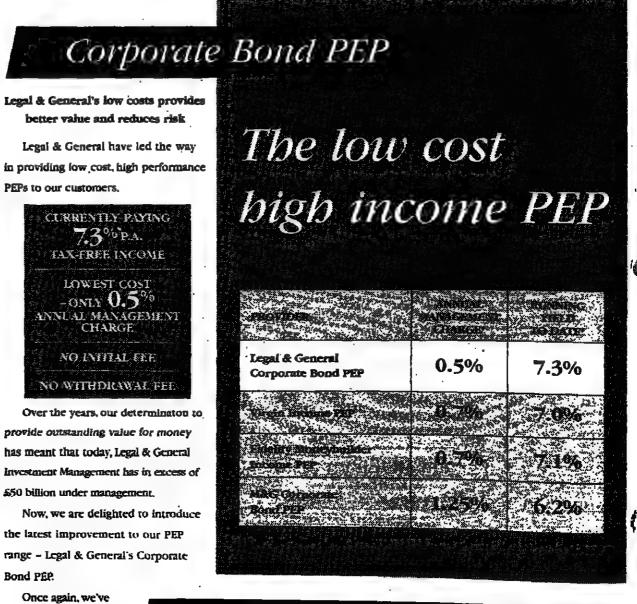
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## Perilous exercise in lethargy

Ostponing pension planning is dangerous but oh so easy. Even usually irksome domestic tasks can seem more compelling than applying yourself to the intricacies of capital and initial unit structures. reduced allocation periods and other impenetrable pension small print.

There are now new excuses to delay the evil hour. Workers in pensionless employment can put off opting out of the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) for personal plans because there may now be some advantage to staying put.

Meanwhile, many of those who suspect that they should be making extra retirement savings will now be using rumours of the abolition of higher-rate pension relief as a pretext to put away their chequebooks. Why enter a long-term commitment when the terms may soon become less

As we report on page 56, Budget



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

tax changes mean that pension plan returns may not match the guaranteed payments offered by Serps. So can put your feet up while waiting to see if the Government is willing to improve the sweetener for those who opt out, or put at risk its spending plans.

Sitting idly by while ministers rule on the fate of pension tax relief would be a perilous exercise in lethargy. Why alow the Chancellor to further squeeze the middle classes. Abolishing higher-rate relief would

raise at least £1 billion, sufficient to improve the sweetener significantly. Those believing that they would prefer other investments to pensions, if the relief were reduced, should be prepared for a shock. The Government is now almost certain to make pension contributions compulsory. With or without higher rate relief, you may be compelled to pay a percentage of your

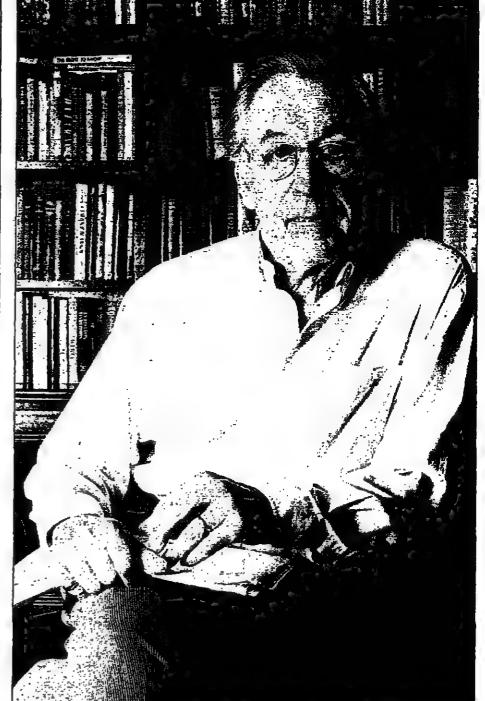
The speculation surrounding high-er-rate relief will surely stir life insurance salesmen into frenzied ac-

benefits, we can make the task less tedious by suggesting you avoid any plan with the features mentioned in the first paragraph.

#### Mortgage bargains

THE autumn is providing plenty of opportunities to pay less for your mortgage. Every lender is desperate to fulfil its annual mortgage sales quota hefore the Christmas slowdown

With fixed-rate deals as low as 6.45 per cent, why pay more? Borrowers who pocketed summer windfalls are persuading their lender to give them a discounted offer, or else. The shyer ones are stealing away to remortgage with competitors. Anyone contemplat-ing such a move should ensure that they can make a swift exit at the end of the fixed rate. With a bit of luck, you may never need to pay the standard variable rate again.



Ansel Harris persuaded the hospital to halve his bill, but it is his insurer that benefits

## The rising cost of caring

s the cost of private medical insurance A medical insurance (PMI) continues to accelerate at a record rate each year, an increasing number of companies are arranging "package" deals with hospitals in an attempt to keep expenses down. However, these deals may have the effect of further increasing bills, driving up premiums. Another effect may be a small number of private hospitals gaining a monopoly in some areas, adding yet more pres-

sure to costs and premiums. Typically, a package deal will involve insurers and hospitals agreeing on a fixed price for the 30 most common operations, such as wisdom reeth extraction, hernias and

knee and hip replacements. Ansel Harris, 72, has private medical insurance from Royal SunAlliance, which is partly paid for by his former employer. In June Mr Harris entered St John and Elizabeth. a private hospital in North London, to undergo an operation on a herrua. Mr Harris was up and walking within 24 hours.

When Royal SunAlliance sent him a copy of the hospital's bill he was dismayed to see that, while the fee for the surgeon and anaesGavin Lumsden says package deals may not be a bargain for those with private medical insurance

care and overnight stay was a staggering £1,645. Mr Harris immediately told the insurer not to pay the bill. The hospital initially refused to discuss the matter, prompting Mr Harris to do his own digging. He found that nearby hospitals charged around £900, while St John and Elizabeth would have charged him £796 if he had walked in off the street and had the operation uninsured. Royal SunAlliance eventu-

ally told Mr-Harris that they had a package deal with the hospital and that the fixed price for a hernia operation assumed a stay in hospital of three days. Mr Harris was amazed: "Each year the pre-miums on my policy have gone up by 10-12 per cent. The company claims it is the rising cost of medical care. but I think it is more to do with the cosy relationship between insurers and hospitals. The conventional wisdom around PMI is that nobody pays, but in fact it is policyholders who end up paying for the increased bill."

agreed to reduce its bill to £796. This has saved Royal SunAlliance, which did nothing, £849. It has agreed to donate half of the money to a charity, of which Mr Harris is chairman, that operates around the world including Sarajevo and Rwanda.

Tony Vick, finance director of St John and Elizabeth, said the hospital had similar arrangements with all the main insurers. "Package deals will allow patients to stay longer without any extra cost," he said.

Mark House of Royal SunAlliance's health insurance centre said the company had introduced the deals with a few hospitals in March and would be reviewing the suc-cess of the trial in the next month. He said the level of payment on the hernia might be changed. He said: "All credit goes to Mr Harris for picking up on the issue, but we would have picked it up in our review period anyway."

According to Laing & Buisson, a healthcare analyst, the costs of private medical insurance have outstripped inflathe tist was a reasonable £500. After an angry exchange of tion in nine out of the past ten the cost of his post-operative letters the hospital finally years, largely the result of

increased claims by policy-holders, it says. PMI now accounts for 70 per cent of the £2.3 billion that is spent on private medical care. This dominance has given rise to a game of cat-and-mouse between insurers and the hospitals that rely so heavily on

them for income. Insurers' early attempts at cost control focused on fixing room rates and operating fees. When hospitals reacted by increasing the expenses of drugs and dressings, insurers in turn responded with the

packaged deal, which fixes all costs of hospital care. However, last year holders of private medical insurance

policies claimed an average of £452 in care, an increase of 5.5 per cent and the biggest rise yet. This prompted the three largest private medical insurers, PPP, Bupa and Norwich Union, to take an extra sanction. They now give discounts to policyholders who use "preferred" hospitals. However, in its latest annual review Laing & Buisson says that such a strategy will cause the closure of hospitals that are left out of these schemes. The remaining hospitals will effectively be local monopolies and could charge insurers anything they like.

## How healthy is the deal?

Private medical insurance policyholders provide 70 per cent of the money spent on private medical care in this country, according to Laing & Buisson, a healthcare analyst. But how good a

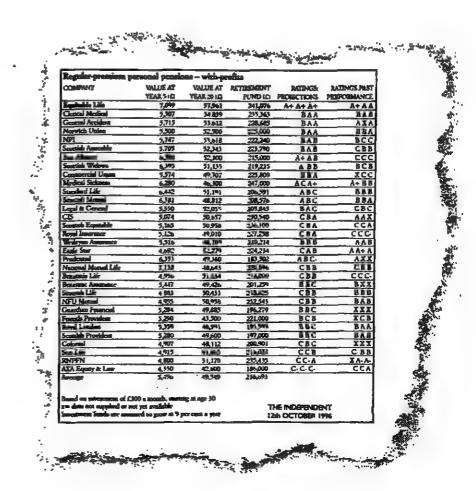
deal are they getting?
There are now 3.4 million PMI policyholders. compared with about one million in 1972. A total of 6.3 million people are covered today by these policies. As a result, the amount of money flowing to private hospitals, clinics, and physicians has rocketed from a paltry £41 million 24 years ago to £2.3 billion last year. Hospitals and clinics take the lion's share of the income: nearly £1.5 billion in 1996. Fees to surgeons, anaesthetists and physicians, however, amounted to £652 million, up from £282 million ten years ago. A large part of this growth has been the pace of medical development, which has made more care possible and increased claims from policyholders. Ten years ago the average claim for care was £213; today it is £452.

Policyholder numbers rise 2 per cent a year but PMI premiums by 10 per cent. While the cost of claims rose 5.5 per cent in real terms last year the amount insurers paid to healthcare providers rose 7 per cent. Insurers, it seems. pay more than they need to. Unfortunately, the rden falls on people like Mr Harris.

GAVIN LUMSDEN



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John Chapman's pioneering methods for comparin e between companies have been adopted b iaries, which asked actuaries at KPMG to carry out the detailed calculations for each company. Mr Chapman's analysis for The Independent uses Money Marketing's

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and prospects of listed firms, says John Givens f you fancy your chances of making a killing in shares but have little experience of dealing in equities, one of the first things you should learn is how to read annual reports and accounts.

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new Bond places to visit ... "

about the performance

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ment Market must, by law, publish these at the end of its financial year Although much of the information given is complex and for investment managers, accountants, lawyers and actuaries only, the publications also include a host of facts and figures that the amateur investor will find invaluable in making

Every company listed on the main UK

stock market or the Alternative Invest-

decisions about a particular company. Anyone with shares in a company, or considering buying them, should monitor its performance by reading the report and accounts. This could include people holding unit trusts if they know which companies the fund is investing in, those with money in investment trusts and company employees with shares through sharesave, options or bonus schemes,

#### CONTENTS

Most reports and accounts get off to a heavy start with the chairman's statement and the chief executive's report, both of which can be long and occasionally complex. The chairman's statement will take a broad view of overall performance, while the chief executive will expand a little more, breaking down each of the company's operations.

The directors' report can also be daunting, covering issues that the Companies Act demands be included in the report and accounts. However, this section can also throw up interesting information, not least about directors' shareholdings and pay.

#### BALANCE SHEET

The balance sheet is a snapshot of a company's financial standing at the end of its trading year and shows two main types of figures — assets and liabilities. Assets are items owned by the company

and include cash in the bank, investments, property, stock, equipment and money due from debtors. Assets are fixed or current. The first are possessions of the company whose value is stable and which are likely to stay more or less the same in the foreseeable future, such as property. Current assets are amounts that can vary and which are easier to cash in, such as money in the bank and the value of stock. Liabilities are debts owed in the form of

As a rule of thumb, assets should exceed liabilities or the company is technically insolvent, although this does not necessar ily mean that it will stop trading

loans and overdrafts or owed to creditors

#### PROFIT AND LOSS

The profit and loss account is the set of figures that interests most shareholders. It shows how much profit the company has made, or the extent of losses.

A number of indicators can be found in this account to help you to decide whether to invest, or continue to invest, in the company. For example, the statistics show annual turnover less the costs of sales,



The stock market intrigues private investors, but company reports can baffle

INVESTMENT @ A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

that is the amount of money it took to run the business, with the difference being the gross profit or loss.

Because the profit and loss statement compares results with the previous year, it is easy to see trends for turnover and costs. turnover has fallen and costs have increased, resulting in smaller profits or bigger losses, you should be on your guard because the figures suggest that sales are on the downturn while expenses are rising. There may be a good reason for this, and you should read the chief executive's and the chairman's reports and the notes accompanying the figures to see whether they explain what happened.

#### ANALYSIS

There are a number of key accounting ratios that you can look at to form an opinion of a listed company's strength.

The current ratio is found by dividing current assets by current liabilities on the balance sheet, and gives an idea of a company's liquidity. If the answer is below 1.0, the amount the company owes in the short term exceeds the cash it can

get its hands on quickly to pay it. The gearing ratio indicates how much a company relies on borrowed money and the level of borrowing. A low ratio suggests a small loan base, and a high ratio reflects heavy borrowing. This ratio is useful in assessing a company's ...! vulnerability to a rise in interest rates.

The return on capital employed, found by dividing pre-tax profit by shareholders' funds, shows the rate of return made on money tied up in the business.

#### TRENDS

Companies with cashflow problems can easily go to the wall, so if cash balances are falling, ask why. A healthly cashflow is also vital to future expansion, since growing a business invariably means spending more money than normal.

If the company has borrowed more money than last year, find out what it was used for and what effect it has on the gearing ratio. It may be that the funds were used to finance a planned expansion that will make the organisation even more profit in the future. On the other hand, it could be that the money has been used to prop up part or all of the business, a bad sign for shareholders.

If the company has changed the way its annual accounts are calculated, it must, by law, tell you and show what the effect of the change is. In spite of the stringent reporting procedures imposed on stock market-listed companies, there is still room for "creative accounting" and sometimes, although rarely, an organisation may try to hide bad news in the accounts to stop shareholders from baling out and having a negative effect on the share price.

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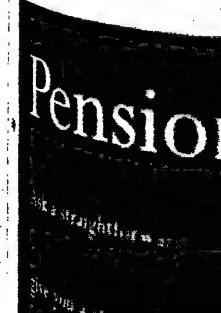
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# John Givens continues our series looking at the issues and p Freelances need security paid our overall would also morphinito a person plan 2 are a basic-rate income are 230 in the pound.

retire at 50, although the

longer you work and contrib-

ute to a scheme, the more you

can expect the pension to pay you when you do retire.

Your choices: When you

decide to retire, you will be

given a fund value by your

then have three choices.

pension manager and you

You can use the cash to buy

an annuity, effectively a policy

guaranteeing a regular monthly income until you die.

For someone retiring at 60,

this is generally about 10 per cent a year of the fund value. So, a £100,000 pension pot

should bring an income of about £10,000 a year. Retiring

earlier than 60 will reduce the

annuity since the amount of

time you are expected to take

an income from the plan goes

to worry about how you will manage financially in 20 or 30 years' time, but the message to all self-employed people is simple - ignore pension planning at your peril.

No one wants to be poor in retirement, but, with more immediate expenses to cover and often the belief that a successful business will secure a future without the need for pensions, a surprising number of people muddle through a self-employed career without a thought for paying the bills when they stop working. Roddy Kohn, of Kohn Cou-

gar, the Bristol financial advissaid: "Unfortunately pension planning does tend to get left behind when people become self-employed.

The pressures of running a business take over and there are probably more pressing things to think about, but whether they are more important than securing your future in retirement is another thing.

"However, when people get to about 45 they start to realise they should be doing some-thing in preparation for their retirement and get a shock when they see how much it is going to cost them each month to provide a reasonable income when they stop work."

Delaying your pension: The impact of delaying setting up a pension can be substantial. According to Sottish Life,

aged 30 starting to pay gross contributions of £100 a month early years. Once these have been accounted for, a greater percentage of the contribuuntil retirement at 60 would build up a pension fund of tions you make are invested in £137,000 over the 30-year period, enough to buy an annuity of £13,500 a year, assuming annual growth of 9 per cent. the pension fund, with a significant proportion of the growth coming in the policy's later years. So the longer you However, if he put off starting have a pension, the bigger the the £100-a-month scheme until age 40, he would build a fund lump sum at maturity. of just £54,900, giving annual ■ Taking the benefits: Most personal pensions allow you to

pension income of just £5,410. Likewise, says John Sheffield, of Ultimate Pension Reviews, of Wimbledon, a 25-year-old man wanting a pension equivalent to £15,000 today when he retires at 60 would have to put £300 a month in a personal pension for the next 35 years, assuming the fund grew at an average of 3 per cent a year above inflation.

However, a 35-year-old man wanting the same benefits at 60 would probably rue his delay in taking out a pension plan, with premiums rising to £500 a month over the 25 years to retirement.

Apart from the obvious benefit of paying into a pension for as many years as possible, part of the reason for the huge difference in cash value is that many of the costs applied to pension schemes by the companies that manage them are taken from the fund in the

annuity, you can choose to take up to 25 per cent of your pension fund as a tax-free lump sum, leaving the rest to buy an annuity. This will give you money up front, but cut your annual income.

The third choice is to wait to buy your annuity until later. Annuities are normally fixed and guaranteed to pay monthly sums until you die, and because they are normally linked to interest rates, timing a purchase is critical. The law lets you delay buying until you are 75 years old, so you have time to choose carefully.

lf, meanwhile, you rely on your pension fund for an income, you can opt for income drawdown. This lets you take out, each year, up to the equivalent of the level of annuity that your pension fund could buy in the open market until you do convert your fund into an annuity.

What you can contribute The amount you can put in a personal pension each year deulated as a maximum percentage of your gross profits - referred to as net relevant earnings. People under 36 can put in up to 17.5 per cent of profits a year. Policyholders aged 61 to 74 can put in 40 per cent.

■ Tax relief: Like employees the self-employed can claim

payer at 23p in the pound, the actual monthly sum you pay is just £77, with the Inland Revenue contributing the extra £23 to make up your £100 premium, However, unlike employees who get tax relief on a month-to-month basis, self-employed people must pay

the full monthly gross premithe end of the tax year to reclaim any relief due, with their tax code being amended the next year to account for any refund owed by the Revenue.

■ Flexible pensions: The increase in self-employed work-- now 3.5 million in the UK - has led some pension companies to offer flexible schemes for those whose in-come fluctuates. Wesleyan's Retirement Account, for example, lets you alter contributions at any time, or suspend them if income is greatly reduced.

### Ali sets shining example

Young people becoming self-employed should take a leaf out of Ali Taylor's book and start their personal pension early. The 26-year-old freelance theatre designer from London Fields is on the lookout for a pension scheme after realising that the longer she leaves it, the harder it will be for her to save for a comfortable

Ali is typical of many self-employed people

she knows that she should be making provision for her retirement now, but the unpredictability of her annual earnings, and the fact that at 26 years old the age of 60 seems like a lifetime away, have stopped her

from sorting out a pension.

However, Ali was convinced that she needed to act while she was young by a 35-year-old colleague who was shocked when he was told how much he would have to pay into a personal pension each month until he was 60 to give him a reasonable income when he retired.

She said: "It hit him how expensive it was going to be and he regrets not starting a pension when he was younger. This really brought it home to me. I thought I'd better sort something out because I don't want to be poor when I retire."

Ali, who earns around £15,000 a year. plans to pay about £25 a month into a pension scheme, enough to get her started.



Ali Taylor aims to pay £25 a month

although she might decide to pay a lump sum of £300 a year if that proves easier. She has been impressed by Virgin's advertising for its pension plan, saying: "The advertising seems to concentrate on young people. Most other companies advertising pensions seem to focus on much older people, so I think Virgin might be better suited to me."

## Wanted: a test of performance

The importance of a pension to provide a retirement income has not been lost on Jon Danzig, a selfemployed Watford man. The 43-year-old writer and director of business and educational films has several personal pension schemes, the first arted when he was 27.

Pension plans for the selfemployed can be more complicated than for employed people since tax relief on contributions has to be calculated at the end of the tax year rather than on a month-tomonth basis. Mr Danzig solves the problem by contrib uting to most of his policies with lump sums each year, although he does have one monthly premium plan. His schemes allow him to give up work any time after 50, although the longer he continues in self-employment after this the more the funds will accumulate.

Mr Danzig spends about 15 minutes a day tracking his investment portfolio using a special computer software package and is an expert on personal pensions, which has led him to call for some pension providers to improve the information they give to policyholders. His plea comes after difficulties with Sun Life. one of the UK's leading life and pensions offices, when he asked for an illustration of how his plan was performing. initially the company miscalculated the size of Mr Danzig's ension fund by more than £3,000 although it later admitted its mistake and apologised. In spite of this he was still

concerned that the fund seemed to be underperforming and asked for a ull breakdown of all the cash he had paid into the retirement scheme and the charges levied for managing it. Sun Life was unable to provide the

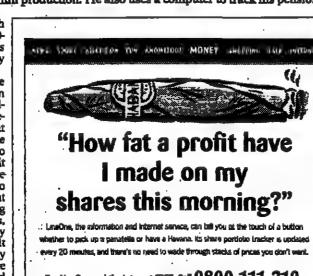


Jon Danzig working on a film production. He also uses a computer to track his pensions

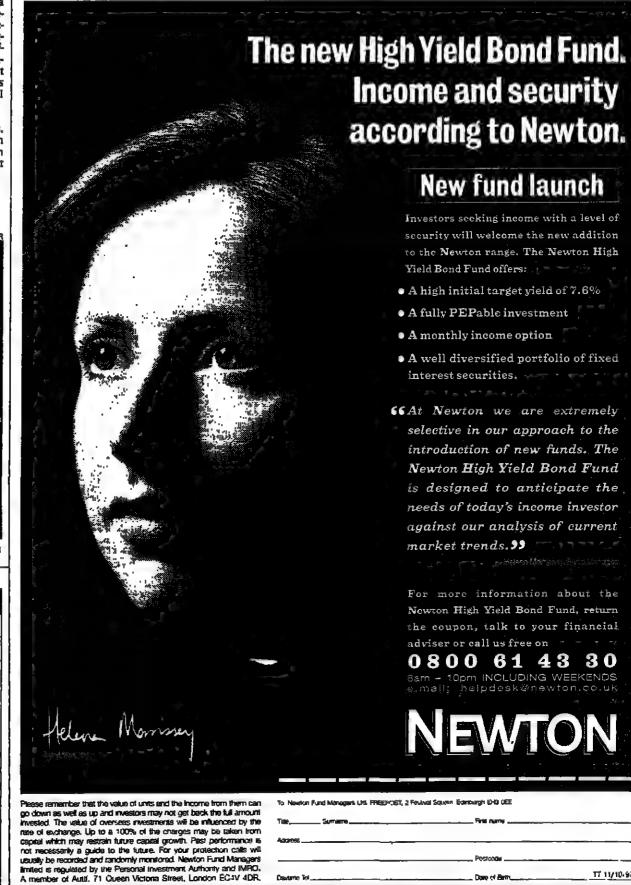
in-depth statement, although it did present him with a 50page report showing how his money had been used to buy

units in various funds. Mr Danzig would like to see a change so that pension providers can give policyholders a bank account-style statement showing exactly what has happened each year. He said: "Once a year or every two years would do, but at least it would give me a chance to see exactly what is happening to my money. At the moment there is no way of knowing what happens to dividends, other than Sun Life says they are absorbed into my fund. It would be nice to know exactly how much they are, where they are coming from and

Sun Life says producing nore detailed statements lift administration costs, which would be passed on to the policyholder, meaning fund values could fall.







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#### Women in the dark on pensions

TENS of thousands of women are so confused about pensions that they do not know whether they are entitled to one from the State. However, many have made no alternative provision for income in their old age.

Those who had hoped to rely on their husband's pension are discovering too late in life that this will be inadequate to support them.

These findings come from the TUC, which was overwhelmed with calls from women during a pensions awareness ca paign. More than 100,000 people called the TUC in ust five days.

The TUC, which said that the calls revealed a "startling" lack of awareness, is now urging the Government to set up a permanent telephone advice line for women. One in four of those

calling had no idea whether they were entitled to a state pension. Nearly 20 per cent of callers had no pension entitlement. smaller number had not joined the occupational scheme at work. In some cases, this was because

scheme stili barred parttime workers. Women who had taken time off work to raise a family were confused whether they would receive a basic state pension.

they were on temporary

contracts or because their

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Den and Angie's Eastenders break-up looks trouble-free compared with the repercussions for those who left Serps

## Millions may clamour for a return to Serps

n 1987. Eastenders viewers were engrossed in the marital strife of Dirty Den and Angie, the publicans of the Queen Vic. Their breakup coincided with a break from the past for thousands of

workers who left the state

pension scheme for pension

independence. Encouraged by a multimillion-pound Government advertising campaign, incentivised by what can only described as an expedient bribe, persuaded by troupes of commission-hungry financial advisers, millions decided to leave the State Earnings Relatfavour of taking out an "appropriate personal pension". They gave up their rights to Serps, the additional state scheme, separate from the basic state pension, in ex-change for a rebate of National Insurance contributions, which could be invested with a pensions provider.

The Government was thus able to extricate itself from a Gordian knot. Serps, as it was designed in the Seventies was

Caroline Merrell on the issues facing workers who opted out

unworkable. The numbers of lions should return to the people contributing and the amount they contributed were not going to be enough to pay for the benefits promised. Cuts in Serps had already been administered by skilfully linking rises in the amount paid to

inflation rather than earnings. However, this sleight of hand was not enough to see off an impending disaster, which is why the Conservative Govcontracting-out option, heavily laced with extra financial bonuses to make it more palatable to a populace used to relying on the State to provide.

At first, the amount of rebate received was level - it did not alter with your age. This meant that at some point it became more financially advantageous to return to Serps because the contracting out rebate when invested would not have time to produce the benefits being giv-

en up.
This was the last thing the Government wanted, so it altered the level of the rebate so it was related to age - the older you were, the more you got. It was thus able to prevent more people from contracting

back in to Serps.

Now, the Labour Government has managed to muddy the waters further by cutting the tax relief on pension fund dividends - stunting the potential investment growth of the rebate, and making Serps more attractive. By right, milscheme they so easily gave up. Here Weekend Money tries to answer your questions about what to do.

I am currently contracted out of Serps. Am I

Nearly six million people A are contracted out of Serps, through personal penwhere the benefits are defined by the contributions made. Around a further 20 million are in final-salary pension schemes. Final salary schemes will be unaffected because employers guarantee to match the Serps benefits given up.

The other six million could be affected. The Association of British Insurers, the trade body that acts on behalf of the pensions industry, says the tax change means that most people, particularly women who get their Serps benefits earlier than men, should contract back into the scheme. Before the tax change, the ages for contracting back in for men and women was 52 and 46, respectively.

I am being offered the chance to contract out of Serps, should I do it?

The advice most insur-A ance companies and financial advisers are giving their clients is to wait and see

what happens. The view is that the Government does not want to have millions of people returning to the State scheme. It has claimed that it wants to keep Serps, but the indications are that it may have to water down this promise.

Will not taking action prove incredibly detrimental to my final pension?

A Pension providers be-lieve that delaying the decision whether to stay in. leave or rejoin Serps is not going to create problems straight away. However, it try hamstrung about advice it should be giving customers.

What is the pension industry doing about it?

A The ABI and others have had discussions with John Denham, the pensions Minister, about the level of the rebate. The industry believes it will have to rise to make up for the tax relief swiped by the Government in the last Budget. A 10 per cent rise in the level of the rebate has been suggested, which could cost around £500 million.

How long has the Gov-ernment got to sort out the problem?

The rebate is paid out annually, from April to April. In theory, therefore, the Government has just a few months to work out a solution. The only other alternative is to change the way the value of the rebate is projected to grow.

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Gavin Lumsden says insurers are under pressure to devise equity-release schemes

## Home-income plans are given new lease of life

Faced with an increasingly aged population and an escalating social services bill, the Government is keen to get pensioners to look after themselves as far as possible. However, many old people are asset-rich but cash-poor; the value of their house stands in stark contrast with the paucity of their income and savings. The problem is how to release the capital locked in bricks and mortar into income without making them leave their home.

So-called equity-release plans are the solution and the Government is now putting pressure on lenders and insurers to come up with more schemes. However, Hilary Armstrong, Housing Minister, is determined that finance companies should not repeat the tragic mistakes of the 1980s when two earlier versions of home-income plans left pensioners with worthless investments, in debt and facing the loss of their homes.

Ten years ago many low-income pensioners were persuaded to remortgage their homes and put the money into nvestment bonds. These were supposed to generate enough income to pay off interest on the loan and give investors enough to live on. Unfortunately, this became impossible when interest rates rose and stock market returns plummeted. Another type of scheme, known as roll-up loans, also proved fatally attractive as they did not require borrowers to make any capital or interest repayments. Instead these were added to the loan. This was fine when interest rates were low. However, when interest rates rose over 10 per cent many borrowers found that the loan could build up very fast. Many were made homeless when the value of the loan exceeded the value of the home. In 1990 regulators took action and a long legal battle for compensation began. Several firms active in the sales of home-income plans collapsed, amid conproversy and scandal, including Fisher Prew Smith, of Southport, and Aylesbury

Now Mrs Armstrong is challenging lenders to put these dark days behind them and come up with new schemes. Some lenders, notably those in the Safe. Home Income Plan (Ship) preanisation.

ore elderly people could be such as Cambridge. Cheshire, and Kent woman gets an annuity of £1.965 while a 17 annual payments of £5,114, giving her converting the value in their Reliance, have acted to fill in the gap with man gets £2.672. Couples get even less a total of £104,188. two different schemes available solely for people over 69: the mortgage annuity, better known as the home-income plan.

and the home-reversion plan. Home-income plans allow homeowners to borrow between £15,000 and E30,000 on their property and buy an annuity which provides them with a guaranteed income for life. Part of the income from the annuity goes to pay the fixed interest on the loan. Because both income and the interest are fixed homeowners can be sure they will not fall into the problems of home-income horrowers in the 1980s. The loan only becomes payable on death and is taken from the proceeds of the sale of the home. Borrowers have the security of staying in their home while enjoying any apprecia-tion in the value of their homes. HIP

man gets 12.672. Couples get even less because the annuity is paid until both partners die. A man and woman in their early 70s will get around £658 a year

increasing to \$1.375 when both reach 80. Home-reversion plans are for people looking for greater sums of money. Here borrowers actually agree to sell between per cent and 100 per cent of the value of their home when they die in return for a large one-off payment or a series of smaller lump sums. Again, these deals enable you to continue living in your home and, if you retain some ownership in the house, to benefit if the value of the property increases. However, this is a st-stop measure as the payments you will receive will only represent a third to a half of your home's value. If you live in an ex-council property you might not be able to do a home reversion. Such

#### LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

points to bear in mind before taking out a home income plan. First, the extra income you might be able to generate may reduce any income support or council tax benefits.

You should consider discussing your plans with your family so they know there could be a

while the value of your estate tor to check the agreement rather than use one recommend ed by the plan provider.

die. Also consider your state of

health. If you die early you will see little benefit from the plan

borrowers get unother perk from the Government. Whereas other homeowners will have mortgage interest relief at source (Miras) reduced to 10 per cent from next April, they will continue to get the relief at the full basic rate of tax (23 per cent). However, because Miras is available only on loans up to £30,000 this is the effective ceiling for most homeincome plans.

Unfortunately women do less well out of home-income plans. Because they live longer than men insurers give women a smaller annual annuity than their male counterparts. For instance, a 70-year-old single woman buying an annuity with E30,000 would get around £852 after 123. (which is levied at 20 per cent on investment income), while a man of the same age would get £1,303. The gap persists the older they get. At 80 the properties can be difficult to value an are usually less attractive to the City estors who underpin the deal. Home & Capital, one of two Ship

companies running reversion schemes.

offers four options to people over 70. For instance, a 74-year-old woman who agreed to revert the entire value of a £150.000 house could get a £66,960 lump sum upfront. Alternatively she could take a smaller sum and combine it with a series of annual payments. In total these other options will pay her more money, if she lives to take it. For instance the woman could take half the lump sum (£33,450) and five annual paym ES, lob, giving her a total of £74,310, or a £16.740 lump sum (a quarter) and ten annual payments of £7.150, making a total of £38,240. The best deal, if she lives to 92, is to take the £16,740 lump sum and

After retiring five years ago at 72. Janet Greenwood, who had worked as a clerk for an insurance company, found she was getting through her savings at an alarming rate. She contacted Home & Capital after hearing about equity-release schemes through a friend, who valued her bungalow in Woking at £120,000. She decided to revert the full value of her house. In return H&C gave her a £53,000 lump sum last year. In addition to her solicitor's fees she had to pay the company I per cent of the value of the home. However, now she has invested the money. Janet gets £300 of interest a month to supplement her state pension. She said: "I didn't want to go into a retirement home. I'm very active for my age and keen on gardening. These plans are marvellous especially if you

ive no family to leave your property to." Last year the Bank of Scotland launched the Shared Appreciation Mort-gage (SAM). It allows people to borrow a proportion of the value of their home in return for sharing most of the appreciation in the property with the bank on

There are two versions of the plan, one charging 0 per cent interest and the other 5.75 per cent. With the former the most you can borrow is 25 per cent of the house whilst the amount of appreciation you will share is three times loan to value (LTV). If you borrow 20 per cent LTV you will share 60 per cent of the growth in value of the house. This means if a person borrowed £20,000 on a home worth E100,000, which subsequently doubled in value, the bank would get E60,000 from the borrower's estate.

With the interest paying version of SAM the amount of appreciation you share is equal to the loan, which can be up to 75 per cent of the value of the home A house valued at £100,000 would enable the owner to borrow up to £75,000 on which he or she would pay fixed interest of 5.75 per cent. When the borrower dies the Bank of Scotland will get 75 per cent of the growth in value. If the house £75,000. In both schemes, if the property value falls the bank gets nothing.

For a leaflet from Safe Home Income

Plans contact 'Hinton' & Wild (Home



Leonard and Joan Clark's home reversion plan ensures they have enough disposable income to enjoy their retirement

home to Carlyle Life Assurance. At the

time Leonard was 70 and Joan was 71.

Under the agreement the couple received

a joint annuity of £1,680 per year, giving

huge difference. "We have been able to

carry on running the car, decorate the

Mr Clark says the money has mode a

them a monthly income of £139.

Pensioners Leonard and Joan Clark consulted Hinton & Wild (Home Plans), a specialist adviser in Surbiton, the couple three-bedroom home in Mitchan, agreed to sell 79 per cent of their £60,000

return of

London, and buying a maisonette in

Burgh Heath, Surrey. Four years later the

to run out. Not relishing the idea of life on

a basic state pension, Leonard started to

A newspaper article drew his attention

to home reversion plans, and having

An average annual

money raised from the sale was beginning

consider other options.

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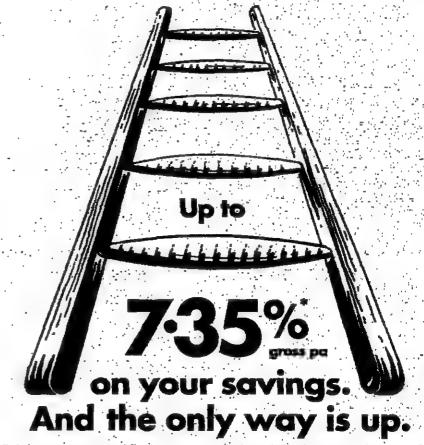
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home and buy new clothes when we want to." he said.

The couple took care to tell their son, to

whom they intend to leave the remaining 21

per cant of the property's value. The only niggle was the time it took to get the plan

agreed. Carlyle Life had never done a home

reversion plan on a maisonette and it was

nine months before the deal was complet-

ed. Carlyle Life gave them one month's

extra payment for the inconvenience.





#### Society's status faces new threat

The Nationwide Building Society, which has already fought off one campaign by carpetbaggers to force it to demutualise, faces a new challenge to its inde-

Andrew Muir, 32, from Slough, is bidding for a seat on the society's board with a view to persuading the directors to return surplus profits to members.

Mr Muir, who has been a saver for ten years with the Nationwide, said he disapproved of carpetbagging. but felt that "the current board has lost touch with the majority of investors". He wants to force the society to reward long-term investors with a windfall lump sum, although he says this could be achieved without the Nationwide floating on the stock market.

Mr Muir runs a financial recruitment agency in Slough and was formerly an accountant. He estimates that savers and borrowers could receive bonuses of between £500 and £5,000 in return for their long-term support.

"I am not actively seeking the Nationwide's conversion," he said. "I do believe. however, that the society is not returning our profits to us as members. If a member dies, the membership dies with them, with no benefit to their estate."

He said that in spite of Nationwide's slightly more competitive rates for savers and borrowers, members would have to wait 50 years before they saw the same benefit as they would if they received a lump sum now.

If elected to the board, he will be pushing for a variable distribution of profits. which favours long-term members. He maintains that he has no connection with Members for Conversion, the pressure group headed by Michael Hardern, the freelance butler who attempted to force the Nationwide to convert to a bank in the summer. Mr Muir plans to collect

50 signatures from qualifying members and put his bid for a seat on the board at the society's annual meeting He can be contacted at

Andrew Muir, PO Box 358. Slough PDO. Berkshire.

SLI IYS, or by fax on 01753

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Loans can finance a facelift or buy a new car. Anne Ashworth considers the options

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## Securing the right loan

out a small loan range from the mundane to the exotic. While most aspiring borrowers say that they need the money for a new car or home improvements, a survey showed that customers of Yorkshire Bank were more open about their motives. Many applicants were financing plastic surgery and did not feel that they had to claim on the application to be paying for a new roof when they were really after a new nose.

Another oft-stated reason for arranging a loan is to repay existing debts. The trade calls these consolidation loans.

Whatever your need, any number of organisations are now eager and willing to lend you money. This means that the potential for decreasing the cost of the loan is considerable. particularly if you prefer to organise the deal over the telephone.

Home improvements: If you want to raise money for some domestic refurbishment, the options include increasing your mortgage or remortgag-ing with your existing lender or a competitor.

A Halifax borrower with a

£100,000 mortgage seeking a £5,000 home improvement loan would pay the bank's current variable mortgage rate of 8.45 per cent. If the loan was repaid over 25 years, it would add an extra £40.54 a month to the £672 payment on an interest-only mortgage. Repaying the money over 15 years would increase the bill by £50.02, while clearing the debt over three years would cost an extra £163 a month.

The sharp decline in medium and long-term fixed-rate mort-gage offers has led many homeowners to contemplate remortgaging to fund repairs. In some cases, although they may be borrowing a larger amount, their repayments may fall, especially if they have been paying their lender's standard variable mortgage rate. Some lenders are so eager for customers that they are offering cashbacks of up to 6 per cent of the value of the loan.

London & Country, the Bath mortgage broker, points out that a borrower with a £100,000 loan currently paying 8.45 per cent could switch to a remortgage deal from the Stroud & Swindon Building Society, increase his loan to £105,000 and pay £582 a month. This is a saving of £90.



There may be no need to visit the pawnbroker if you find the right lender, and there are now plenty to choose from

Secured loans: Home improvement and remortgage rates are lower than the typical personal loan rate because the borrowing is secured against the value of your home. The bank or building society is entitled to force a sale of the property to recover the debt. It is also possible to borrow more cheaply if you have another valuable asset, such as a life assurance policy, that you can offer as security.

Scottish Widows Bank, a division of the life assurance group, offers variable-rate policy loans of £1,000 or more secured against one of its own policies or those of 30 other insurers. You can borrow a maximum of 75 per cent of the surrender or cash-in value of the policy. The current Annual Percentage Rate (APR or "true rate") is 10.47 per cent. This will vary with the bank base rate.

You may be able to negotiate a similar rate with your own bank by offering a life policy as security. Despite their reputation, branch managers can be surprisingly flexible.

Personal loans: The standard issue bank loan is an unsecured bank loan with a fixed rate. As the bank has no security, it is likely to attempt to persuade you to buy repayment protection insurance which will pay out if you fall sick or are made redundant. This cover will add another E20 a month to the repayments on a £5,000 loan over three

You may balk at this ex-pense, especially because in-surers will find every excuse not to pay out under these policies. For example, your claim will be refused if you have been sacked, rather than made redundant. Even if you anialim ni deeccus ot the payments may not last for

more than one year. Although the personal loan market is said to be very competitive, rates for the same size of loan vary somewhat between banks. The Abbey National APR for a £5,000 loan over three years is 14.9 per cent, against 17.9 per cent at Barclays. If you do not take insurance, you will repay a total of £6.868 at the Abbey, £468 less than at Barclays. The

monthly payments are £190.78 and £203.78 respectively. Some institutions, including the Halifax, offer special loyal-

ty deals for existing customers. The greater the number of your relationships with the Halifax, the lower the rate you pay. If you have both a Halifax mortgage and a current account, the APR for a £5,000 loan will be 13.9 per cent. Over the three-year period, you will repay £6,229 if you do not take insurance. The monthly payment is £173.03.

Being a Halifax customer of more than six months' standing, whether as a borrower or as a saver, also allows you a discount on the bank's loans. The APR on a £5,000 loan is 15.9 per cent, with a monthly repayment (without insurance) of £177.32 and a total repayment of £6,383.52.

T weever, aspiring borrawers snould not be ▲ A overcome by these rewards for constancy. Arranging a loan over the telephone currently appears to guarantee some of the lowest rates. Direct Line, the insurance company, now makes loans available to non-customers at below average rates. Its APR for the £5,000 loan is 12.8 per cent, with a monthly repay-ment of £166.38 (without insurance).

Moneyfacts, the interest rate

data provider, lists as its other telephone best buys the Bank of Scotland (Banking Direct) with an APR of 12.9 per cent and Sainsbury's Bank with an APR of 13.6 per cent.

■ Credit cards: Card companies love to lend money to the free-spending but essentially creditworthy individual with a regular salary and a home of his own. To lure such a lucrative proposition, they will accept a transfer of debt from another card company.

Most card rates are higher than the typical personal loan rate. But the new, often American-owned card companies. not only have lower rates but also bargain charges for new customers.

Barclaycard's APR is 22.90 per cent Capital One Bank has an introductory rate of 7.9 per cent. Its usual rate is 17.9 per cent. The Co-operative TK'S INTRODUCTORY TRUE also 7.9 per cent, increasing to

The savings to be made are substantial. Borrowing £3,000 over six months on the RBS Advanta card, a joint venture between The Royal Bank of Scotland and Advanta, an American card group, and you will pay £145.04 in interest. This is less than half the cost of borrowing the same sum on a Barclaycard, where you will pay £319 in interest.

#### Decision time for BZW investors

People who invested in BZW Convertible Investment Trust have until Friday to decide where to place their money when the fund closes.

BZW is winding up a £100 million investment trust only seven years after its launch following poor investment returns and the ballooning cost of servicing a £20 million

The BZW Convertible Trust, one of only four managed by BZW, is offering its thousands of small shareholders a choice of switching to shares in either the City Merchants Trust, an investment trust run by Invesco, the rival fund manager; or the Invesco High Income Unit Trust; or a cash exit route via an Invesco money fund, City analysts expect most investors to take the cash option. If shareholders do nothing, their money will automatically be transfered to the Invesco

unit trust. BZW, which earned £632,000 managing the trust last year, admits that while it has achieved high income, at around 7-9 per cent a year, capital growth has been poor. Over the year to July 31. the trust's asset value rose by only 25 per cent. compared with an increase in the FTSE Allshare index of 25 per cent.

BZW Convertible investment Trust shareholders will also receive a letter today offering them the opportunity to invest in a tracker fund and remain clients of Barclays Global Investment by putting their holdings in the first Internet-based unit trust and Pep. The CF netPep Tracker Fund, managed by BGI, is wooing BZW convertible investment trust holders by not charging them initial

Richard Carswell, a spokesman for netPep. said the savings were possible by marketing and promoting netPep via the internet to avoid the high costs of conventional advertising. Ian Millward of Chase de Vere said: would be to take the cash offer from the BZW and take the opportunity to reassess the situation. There is no way you would get high income from a tracker fund but there is nothing wrong with trackers. It just boils down to the position of the individual investor."

SUSAN EMMETT

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NatWest standard Visa	€12	20.8%	£195.00	Address Address
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### Elderly breathe a sigh of relief

of with-profit bondof with-prom holders breathed a the sigh of relief this week as the Government announced that It was abandoning radical plans to reform the taxation of life

Last November the Inland Revenue threatened to stop the practice of "top slicing" on with-profit bonds, which allows people to withdraw 5 per cent annual income from their bonds but have it treated as return of capital.

Elderly people have found top-slicing useful for keeping their taxable income below £15,600. Income above this amount triggers reductions in their age allowance. Many higher rate taxpayers have used with-profit bonds in this way to defer taxation until they retire, when they may be taxed at a lower rate. In all, 640,000 people have pumped £20 bil-lion into bonds for this reason.

A second controversial proposal was to replace the practice of pre-certifying life policies as tax-exempt with a system of exit testing. Although the idea had merits, its effect was that people would be in the dark about whether their savings would be taxed until their policies matured.

Policyholders, financial advisers and insurers united to protest to the Inland Revenue, which wanted to implement these changes on existing policies. Opponents argued that this amounted to retrospective action by the taxman and confounded people's best expectations when they took out

This week Dawn Primarolo. Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said the Government had decided not to proceed with the proposals in the light of the

TO SEE THE PROPERTY OF THE SECURE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF T

However, it is determined to close loopholes such as the dead settlor rule, which allows partners of people who have had a bond written in trust to receive tax-free income once that person dies. Another area of longstanding concern is the use of policies written offshore. The Revenue received a setback this year when the High Court ruled that it could not tax expats when they returned

The scale of the Revenue's climbdown surprised many. Charles Levett-Scrivener of Towry Law, the financial adviser, said: "You could have knocked me down with a feather! The key issue here is that the average person needs simple clear rules. The problem with the original Revenue proposals is that they were going to be very complicated and in light of self-assessment I think they felt they were going to create a rod for their own back."

The upshot of all this is that with-profit bonds remain an attractive investment as insurers smooth the returns from the stock market and lock in growth with annual bonuses. Since the Budget they have also become slightly cheaper than unit trusts, although the tax advantages of Peps beat bonds hands-down. Levett-Scrivener says the trend towards consolidation in the insurance industry is producing fewer, but financially stronger, companies. Greater financial strength allows insurers to invest more in equities, which should give policyholders better returns in the future. For a free guide to

Towry Law: 0345 868 244. GAVIN LUMSDEN

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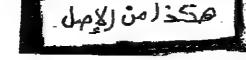
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their investment but cannot

years. Although at present it

takes around six weeks to

realise the money, the length

of time may vary and the

company reserves the right to

defer it for up to a year.

Encashment levels are run-

ning at around EL3 million

this year. Last year they stood

at El.4 million compared with

sider what exactly they are spending their money on. Is this the kind of holiday and

cost that they would want to

commit themselves to? Don't

forget in doing the sums to add on the weekly user charges,

travel cost to get to the sites,

and expenditure on self-cater-

ing. It is also important to look

at the real value of the bond as

As James Higgins, director

of Chamberlain de Broe, the

financial adviser, notes: "In-

vesting in properties would

usually be regarded as a

speculative move." However.

in the rest of Europe, where there is more emphasis on

renting than buying houses.

**GROSS**\*

a longer-term investment.

sales of £16 million.



THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 1997



Sunshine estate: when getting away from it all proves too difficult try a Holiday Property Bond, but don't expect a high return on your investment

## Investments in paradise

The suntan has faded, the duty-free gin bought with the last pesetas has run out and no one else wants to see your fine rolls of holiday snaps. Time perhaps to start planning the next vacation. For those who like to book

early, before the ink has dried on the brochure page, the chance to plan ahead, even years in advance, might be tempting. One option that is widely advertised is the Holiday Property Bond. Backed by pictures of sun-kissed villas and glowing words of approval from the travel veteran Judith Chalmers, this offers investors a stake in a wide range of holiday properties across the UK and the rest of Europe together with rent-free holidays every year. The bond is a unitised investment and includes a life assurance ele-

Villa Owners Club, the private company behind the Holi-day Property Bond, is keen to make it plain that it is not offering a timeshare. Bondholders are not tied to any one property and do not pay a fixed management charge. There is a minimum investment of £2,000. Each pound is translated into an equivalent number of points with holidays priced in points. In addition the bondholders pay a "no profit user charge" per week to cover overheads such as cleaning and maintaining the property.

The bond, which is issued

Clare Stewart reports on the holiday bonds that

can be less attractive than they first appear

launched in 1983 and currently there are 23,000 bondholders choosing from around 800 properties. These range from cottages at Gleneagles to apartments in Tampa Bay, Florida. There are also specially adapted apartments for wheelchair users.

A £6,000 investment (the average) translated into 6,000 points would, for example, allow you to rent a onebedroom studio for a week in mid-April in Stigliano, a restored medieval village in Tuscany, or a one-bedroom apartment in Tenerife for two weeks in August.

An investment of more than £5,547 brings added benefits, such as the opportunity to take up holidays that are unbooked paying only in user charges, as well as special deals on long-stay bookings out of season. The virtue of the bond, says

the group, is that "you are protected against inflation in the cost of holiday accommodation for life". The points rating for properties is indexlinked to take inflation and replacement building costs into consideration. Bondholders' points allocation is adjusted in the same way, up or down, according to the

Weekly charges for overseas

local currency and translated into sterling two months before the holiday begins, so there might be fluctuations between booking and paying. Current charges for UK properties range from £111 to £238 per week plus VAT.

However, while the quality and range of holidays on offer wins praise, the bond's performance as an investment looks less impressive. Launched at 88p in 1984, the current selling price is quoted as 68p. This price is based on the total property valuation, which is reassessed annually, and the value of investment in securities.

The unit price performance, according to Nicholas Beam-ish, a Villa Owners director, reflects a number of factors. "European property values have been marked down," he said. "The bond does have a large amount of its investment tied up in new projects that are not yet valued."

Forty per cent of the bond's assets are invested in securities by the Midland Bank Trust Corporation (Isle of Man), which is the company's trustee and securities manager. The bias of securities, says Mr Beamish, is now moving away from fixed interest investments towards a greater exposure to equity markets.

seen the same kind of growth as in the UK. In addition, says Mr Higgins, while the holiday and investment package makes a good sales story. there is no strong correlation between the two as far as the sell to another investor. Bonds vestor is concerned can only be cashed after two

The bondholder is effectively buying the right to a series of discounts on holidays in the future but for which they are paying in advance while, on past performance at least, not seeing much of an investment return.

However, if your holiday time is restricted and you want your money to work harder. you may be better off paying hile the range of for holidays in the usual way, even taking into account annuproperties to rent looks attractive, poal price increases, while your money earns a higher rate of tential investors should conreturn invested elsewhere.

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The Bond is ideal if you have capital you won't need to access for a year. It's wise to invest as much as you can because additional deposits

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7.06% p.a. Estimated Income Yield. 6.56% Estimated Gross Redemption Yield. As at 3.9.97.%<sup>‡</sup>

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**SCOTTISH WIDOWS** 

Mr/Mm/Mms/Ms (please delete at appropria	e) Surname	First Name(s)				
Address						
		Prestcode				
Telephone No. Work	Home	Date of Birth	1	7	Mole 🖂	Female [

NATIONAL SAVINGS

#### THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

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## Action to avoid winter's ravages

the storm of October 16, 1987, resulted in insurance claims totalling a massive £1.6 million. Although such extreme weather is highly unusual in the UK. Age Concern Insurance Services believes that homeowners should undertake a few low-cost preventive measures before winter to avoid damage to their property. A guide has been produced that explains what to do in situations such as a pipe bursting or freezing. if your house suffers storm damage, or if you are away from home for a long period during winter. For a free copy, call 0345 697610.

☐ The 1998 edition of Choosing Your Independent School is now available and contains fully updated details of more than 1,300 schools, with information on school size, type, location, subjects taught, religious affiliation, sports and facilities, plus full A-level. GCSE, GNQ and Scottish exam listings. The book is available from bookshops or the Independent Schools Information Service, tel. 0171 630 8793, at £9.50 plus postage.

☐ Whether you are consider-ing buying shares for the first time, or already own shares.

perhaps through a privatisa-tion, building society conversion or in a Pep, Understand Shares in a Day provides a good explanation of how the marker works. The book reveals why shares fluctuate, how to select a broker, how to buy and sell shares, and the risks and rewards of Penny Shares. More complex areas of share ownership are also covered, such as how to value shares, and strategies for volatile or falling markets. Available to Times readers at a reduced price of £5 (including p&p). Send cheques, made payable to TTL, to PO Box 200, Harrogate, HGI 2YR.

☐ Your Complete Guide to Home Insurance highlights what to look out for when choosing a policy to protect your property and posses-sions. The booklet explains based on details such as the number of bedrooms, postcode, replacement value "as new" of your contents and valuables. A section is included which shows how to calculate the rebuilding cost of your house. Available free from branches of the Britannia Building Society.

LIZANNE ROSE

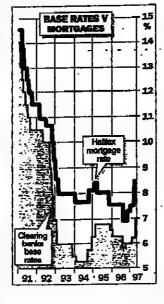
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interes paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Instant Access	Instant	£1	6.50	Yly
C&G 0800 742437 Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Inst Transfer Direct Access	InstantB Postal	21,000 22,500	7.00 7.05	ΥŊ
First National BS 0800 558844	Direct Access	PostalB	£5,000	7.45	Υ1 <u>)</u>
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NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	paid
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0500 225777	Albion 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.20	Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 40	40 day p	25,000	7.30	Yh Yh
Coventry BS 0345 665522 Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Postal 50 60 Direct	50 day p 60 day p	£5,000 £10,000	7.35 7.60	YI
		Notice			interest
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836		5 year	E2,000	7,65	Yh
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£2,500	7.65	Yly
Hanley Economic BS 0800 838811 Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year 5 year	£1,000 £3,000	7.60 7.60	YŊ YŊ

CREDIT CARDS	. Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per ≅nnum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	NI
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Nii
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829400	Base Rt Lnkd M/V	1.00%C	12.70%	Nii

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment o with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38
Capital One Direct 0800 216252	12.90%	£189.48	£188.54
Alliance & Leic Grp 0990 626262	13.30%	2187.73	£167.56

\* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)



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%	FIR:	ST-TIME	BU	YERS
Lender	interest rate %	Loen size	Max %	Notes .
Building Societ				
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£30-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Mansfield 01246 202055	2.20	£25-250k	90	5% discount-6 mt Further dec apply
Clay Cross 01248 862120	5.25	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 12 months
Banks	0.00	000 4454	95	Fixed 6 mths.
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	<b>0.99</b>	£20-145k	90	3% disc 8 mins
Halifax plc 01422 333333	5.45	£25-250k	95	3% disc-30.9.99, ,5%overSVR-10.04

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

#### **GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS**

ANNUAL INCOME Rates as at October 9, 1997

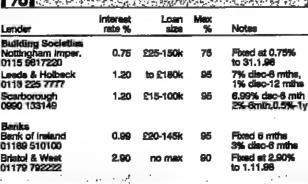
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rete (%)
1 Year			_
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.10
	5,000	AIG Life	6.27
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.75
2 Years			
	1.000	Hambro Assured	5.70
	10,000	Hambro Assured	8.40
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.55
	50,000	Hembro Assured	6.60
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.60
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.40
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.85
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
	.,		
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.70
	3,000	Pinnade Insur	6.35

FIXED RATE	Gross	Buying price	% Gross yleid	leaue price	Minimum purchase amount	
Birmingham Mildshires	9.375%	125.50	7.429	100.17	1,000	
Bradford & Bingley	11.825%	152.10	7.643	100,13	10,000	
Bradford & Bingley	13,000%	170.57	7.621	100,20	10,000	
Britannia	13.000%	170.13	7,641	100.42	1,000	
Coventry	12.125%	160.04	7.508	100.75	1,000	
First National	11.750%	151.87	7.737	100,25	10,000	
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	176.16	7.593	100.23	1,000	
Newcastle	10.750%	140.84	7.583	100.32	1,000	
Newcastle	12.B25%	166.32	7,501	100,45	1,000	
Northern Rock	12.625%	184.82	7,660	100.14	1,000	
Skipton	12.875%	169,60	7,591	100.48	1,000	
FLOATING RATE	Gross	Buyîn prid		satile price	Minimum purchase	
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.04083%	120.0	0 10	0.00	1,000	
First Nat (22/09-20/03)	9.98359%	105.0	KO 10	0.00	1,000	
PIBS = Permanent intensit-bearing shares Source: ABN AMRO House Govern — 0171 501 0101						
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1	Unit with Piu (5) Secure (3)	111.60		0.10	l
	Managed (2)   Equity Mined (2)   Adventurous (3)   Eristol & West (3)	136,30		- I.63 - I.60	ı
	Adventurous (3)	25.50	•••	- 1.60 - 1.40 + 6.10	ı
	SIENCE AND CO.	11220	•••	7 4410	L
ı	FRIENDS PIG	OVIDEA	a.		l
ļ	PRIENDS PRO Casale Street, Sa 01722 41336g	Sebury.	With Si	PI JAIH	ı
	Managed	417.00	454.80	- 340	ŀ
	We Equity	506,70 504,50	640.80 531 ID	- 6.30	
	Oversess Equity	396.30	417.20	3.20	ł
	Pedfic Valle	174.40	184.20	1.0	
	European Property	792.20 197.20	207.60	9.40	1
	Place interest	295.00	310.60 210.20	- 2.90	ĺ
	OITZZ 413360 Managed Managed Mik Equity Viewardship Oversess Equity North American Padis: Innia European Property Pleed Interest Innia, Lianet Cash FP Life Assortance	254 CA	216,50	0.20	l
1	FP Life ANSOTRICO FINED INSECTION FOR THE STATE OF THE ST	Ø.182	676,00	- 6.93	L
ı	Nisangel Deposit	972.40	KE24.LD	- 7 90	ı
1	Property	563.40	973.00	0.90	П
1	Australian	738,00	776.80	-16.10	ı
1	Income Acc	933.70	982.80 (138.20	- 14-60 - 7-90	ı
1	do-Dist	995.30	626.70	- 5位 422	ı
1	Japan Smeller	309.63	325.10	+ 440	١.
1	Singapore & Mai	341.20 627.00	401.20 660.00	7.90	1
1	Tolger Fund	613 30	645.50	• 1.90	1
1	UK Equity CCM Varied Mg	1041.20	1096-00	- 9.30 · · ·	ı
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١	UT CLOBAL F Alban Gale, 14th EC2Y SAS, 9171 7 CT Plan Far East CT Plan Welde	Fir, LE	Loudon	Wall Load	ı
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1	GT Plan Wwide	621.93	654.70	~ 4-21	L
١	CAN LIFE @ 7	ENSIO	NS		{
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ı	Printfolio Acc	876-40 976-10	876 40 022 90	- 510	١
	Portfolio Act de- Inv A UK Equity	876.40 876.30 \$87.20	876 40 922.50 618.30	- 5 10 - 5 40 - 4.90	١
	Portfolio Acc do-Inv A UK Equity Giji Plas Managed	876.40 876.30 \$87.20	876 40 922.50 618.30	- 5 10 - 5 40 - 4.90 - 1.50	
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	Portiolia Acc. do- Inv A 17k Equity Gill Plus Managed  GENERAL ACR. 2 Rougher St. Ya Wanaged Unitment Fruit Investigation Frequent Garli Deposit Frequent American Aspan Soult Cos Burnpean Pacific Fund Conv Life	576-40 576-30 577-20 587-20 587-20 589-90 101-59 101-59 101-59 101-59 101-59 101-50 271-50	876 40 921.50 618.50 852.66 440.60 101.50 176.40 176.40 247.90 247.90 248.00 248.00 248.00 258.00 268.00 268.00 268.00		
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	M & G Vine la llumid of Orze S zaczań Amer Boad Act Amer Rec Bond Am Smir Cos Bd	-	rii, Erre	e Ott
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	Japan Sm Cos Ac Managed Bonds	189.90	199,50	- 12.00
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Search the latest Pep i : 27

Hiden forces Jan

#### Wednesdon on Expenses

the open market option has now been established for

many years but some insur-

ance companies are still only

paying lip service to it. It is

time they acted in the policy-

## Hidden forces slowing annuity payouts

Sir, I am writing regarding your two articles ("Time to see sense over annuities" and Yields hit pensioners", Week-

end Money, October 4). These pieces rightly drew attention to the effect on pensioners of changes in gilt prices. But there is a hidden force at work in the life assurance industry that adds to their predicament: the length of time the insurance companies take to pay out the money from their policyhold-

ers' pension plans. The advice you quote from the Annuity Bureau's Peter Quinton ... "anyone who has received a firm quote on a

offer", may be hard to follow. Annuity quotations are valid for a limited period only, usually 14 days. Yet, large well-known companies with whom a policyholder may have been saving for many years unashamedly state that

lated pension fund transferred

to another company paying a

better armuity rate has al-ready lost half of the armuity

holders' best interests and established procedures and trained their staff to process they need five days to draw a payouts urgently. cheque for the pension fund Yours faithfully, payout. The post adds another two days of delay. This means that a policyholder who wish-es to take the "open market JOHN MACLAREN, Bee Close House, Little Preston. Daventry, Northants. option" and have his accumu-

From Mr M. Woodman Sir, Marianne Curphey's article ("Get better value when you buy your annuity". Week-

higher annuity rate before the EMU report should accept the the open market option has points out that it takes about points out that it takes about ten years for payments from an escalating annuity to catch up with those from a level

هكذامن ريامل

She might well have added that it will take twice as long before the total cash received from an escalating annuity equals the amount received from a fixed annuity - and what about the notional interest on the difference in those early years? An alternative is the "with

profits" annuity. Yours faithfully. MICHAEL WOODMAN. 5 Hithersand Close, Hampton Lucy, Warwick.

#### Penalties that punish the wrong party

From Mr E.J. Hart

Of course, such malpractice

It is entirely wrong that the board, and those of the sales

I am not a policyholder of Friends Provident. If I were, I should be taking advice as to the legality of the fine being paid from mutual funds. Yours faithfully,

#### Prize prospects

From Ms V. Blaber Sir, Regarding the recent correspondence over Premium Bonds as an investment, one has to consider the worst-case scenario, ie, the probability of

likely not to win a prize in a month (0.591). So like many investments it has to be considered either as a possible return in the long run, or short-term gamble. Yours faithfully VALERIE BLABER.

65 Seven Sisters Road, Lower Willingdon. East Sussex.

Letters or information for Week end Money may be sent also to The Times by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number. The Times regrets it cannot always give an individual reply or advice and asks that original documents are

Sir, When a manufacturer is found guilty of malpractice and in consequence is subject to a fine, the remedy is to increase the price of future products.

When, however, a mutual life assurer, such as Friends Provident is fined, and to the tune of £475,000, there is no such convenient solution, the premiums being fixed, and the mutual funds, the exclusive property of the policyholders, are thus depleted.

must not only be condemned but punished, and severely so, but when innocent policyholders of a non-shareholding office are disadvantaged, an alternative should have been

force who were guilty of malpractice, should escape financial responsibility. Public shame is insufficient for the shameful practices perpetrated. and the commissions gained in consequence. A fine of such magnitude is counterproductive, and in no manner reflects the condign punishment merited by those who have brought lasting shame on the pension industry hitherto enjoying deserved public

E. HART, 20, Chapelacre Grove,

#### at a premium

not winning a prize.

An investment of £1,000 for a year is more likely not to win a prize (0.532) than to win (0.468). A holding of £5,000 has only 0.231 probability of winning a prize in any month but if kept in for a year has a high probability (0.958) of winning at least one prize. Even £10,000 is still quite

#### THE WEEK IN MONEY

OFWAT, the water regulator, launched a fresh attack on dividend payments on Wednesday after publishing figures that showed companies paid out more than E6 billion to shareholders over the past four years.

Ian Byatt, Director-Gener-al of Ofwat, voiced his concerns about whether dividends were sustainable and demanded more transparency. He said: "Customers and the regulator want to see where dividends are coming from so that we can be satisfied they are justified." In real terms, dividend payments by water companies have increased 55 per cent since 1992-93.

Ombudsman schemes to deal with consumer complaints are being hampered because too few people know about them, the Consumers' Association says,

According to its report published on Wednesday, more people claimed to have heard of the "Travel Indus-

try Ombudsman" than the Pensions Ombudsman, even though the travel scheme does not exist. The best known scheme, the Banking Ombudsman, was recognised by only 42 per cent of

people. The association also called for regulation of the rapidly rising number of private ombudsman-type schemes and said that unless an agreed standard was drawn up for all ombudsmen, it would be impossible for consumers to know if they were being offered a fair and effective arbitration service.

☐ Headline inflation rose from 3.5 per cent in August to 3.6 per cent in September, the highest level for two years. According to analysts, the surprise rise will increase costs to the social security budget and jeoparthe Government's spending plans.

The total benefits bill will increase by £2 billion in 1998-99, £500 million more than

Investors

the Government had previously forecast.

About 170,000 British policyholders with Australian Mutual Provident Society, the insurer and fund manager, will receive shares worth, on average, £3,000 when it floats on the Australian and New Zealand stock exchanges next year. Shares are scheduled to be allocated in January and the listing is planned for mid-1998, valuing the company at A\$9.4 billion (£4.2 billion).

☐ On Tuesday, Helen Liddell. Economic Secretary to the Treasury, met two victims of the pensions misselling scandal who have been compensated finally. Christine Culbert, from London, and Stella Gardner, from Poole, Dorset, told her of their years of waiting for settlements from Guardian Financial Services and Abbey Life from whom they bought personal pensions in

#### Scottish pensioners facing a double tax whammy

From Mr J.G. Campbell Sir. Dr R. Law (Pensioners deserve to keep their Pep benefits, Weekend Money Letters, September 27) is right to deplore the way in which pensioners will lose out through the ending of Pep tax allowances and the abolition of tax relief on health insurance for those

He is fortunate to live in England. Pensioners like my-self living in Scotland will

suffer in the same way but, in addition, will have to pay Scottish income tax on pensions on top of the tax imposed by Westminster not to mention a 23 per cent increase in council tax here this year. Scottish pensioners are to be an endangered Yours faithfully,

JOHN CAMPBELL 6a Lennox Court, 18 Stockiemuir Avenue, Bearsden, Glasgow



Matthew Wall says good deals are just a few keystrokes away

## Search the Net for the latest Pep information

sonal equity plans (Peps) available to investors via the Internet. As long as you have access to a personal computer, a modem, and an Internet ser-- vice provider, everything you

- might want to know about Peps is a few keystrokes away. In April this year there was even a launch of a Pen that is sold exclusively over the Internet, offering lower annual management charges as a result of the lower administration

information about per-

Typing the phrase "personal equity plans" into an internet than 400 relevant sites on the World Wide Web, the internet's most accessible net-Nork. It can appear that everyone wants to tell you about Peps, including independent mancial advisers, stockbrocers, performance data providrs and, of course, Pep providers themselves.

The best way of sifting hrough this mountain of elecronic financial information is o start at an all-purpose peronal finance information site. Good examples of these inlude Find<sup>1</sup>, Money World<sup>2</sup> and Interactive Investor<sup>3</sup>.

In among the general peronal finance information are ections on Peps, telling you ow they work and how they re regulated. There are also nks to the Web sites of many f the major Pep providers and omparative performance data n all types of Pep, including te corporate bond, tracker and ivestment trust varieties. Stockbrokers and IFAs are

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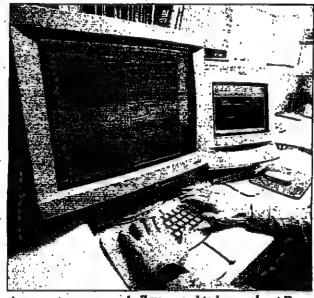
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A computer can reveal all you need to know about Peps

allows them to save on the costs associated with paperbased marketing and distribution, although online services are by no means fully electronic yet. Intermediaries can also reach a much wider audience this way and communication can be more direct. Their Web sites are becoming increasingly inter-

active. For example, Nigel Bourke & Co4, an IFA based in Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, asks potential users of its execution-only service to fill in an online form giving details of the particular Pep they are interested in. It gives a list of 21 major providers. After investors have selected the provider they are interest-

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realising that the Internet

ed in and typed in their details, the form can be submitted electronically and the relevant Pep application form returned by post. NBC Direct, as Nigel

Bourke calls its executiononly arm, will rebate all the normally receive from the sale of the Pep. This is commission that investors would normally have to pay even if they bought the Pep direct from the The beauty of the Internet is

that it makes shopping around so much easier for investors, even if a totally electronic process, including application and payment, is still some way off.
Fidelity is blazing a trail in

this area. Earlier this year it allowed its customers to pay for their Peps online, using debit card details transmitted over the Internet, Other pro uct providers are bound to follow, once fears about the security and privacy of online payments and applications have been assuaged.

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The reverberations from recent speculation about Britain's entry into the single currency have begun to be felt in the levels of interest offered on long-term fixed-rate savings accounts. The returns on these popu-

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lar savings products reflect the financial markets' view of the future direction of interest

A subtle spin put on the media earlier this month gave the financial community the UK would join the monetary union, perhaps sooner than expected. Despite the fact that the pound is back at the level it was before the speculation started, the money markets, future interest rates, now sooner rather than later.

Some of the UK's biggest savings institutions have de-cided to shave the rates off their five and three-year fixedrate offerings because of the money market reaction.

The Halifax, for instance, has taken nearly 0.5 per cent off the rates on some of its longer-term fixed-rate prod-

"Fixed rates are dependent on the rates we can get in the money markets. On the oneyear products we have raised rates. On the three- and fiveyear rates we do have to make

For instance, rates on its guaranteed reserve product have fallen by between 0.15 per cent and 0.25 per cent for investments of between £2,000 and £10,000. A three-year guaranteed bond will now pay 6.75 per cent interest; previous-

short-term interest rates could go into reverse. He gives warming against savers fixing into high short-term interest rates now, only to lose our when they eventually emerge.

Other financial institutions offering fixed rates savings offering fixed rates savings offering fixed rates savings offering fixed rates savings. schemes looking vulnerable

investments of greater than £10,000 the rates have been cut by between 0.05 per cent and 0.25 per cent. A sum of £10,000 invested for three years will now attract an interest rate of 7.1 per cent, compared with a previous rate of 6.85 per cent.

The Halifax stepped income reserve account, where rates rise every year for five years, has also suffered from a rate cut. For example, for invest-ments of between £2,000 and £10,000, rates have failen by around 0.5 per cent. For investments of over £10,000 the rate has fallen by between 0.1 per cent and 0.2 per cent. The rates offered on other fixed-rate savings products are almost sure to follow suit.

Charles Pinder, director of retail savings at Abbey Nat-ional, claims that UK retail savers are facing something of a difficult choice at the moment. He pointed out that, in normal circumstances, longterm interest rates are higher than short-term interest rates. He said: "It is an inverted yield

rates on short-term postal accounts, but this could be

He added: "What the money markets are telling us is what the course of rates is going to be in the future, both in the long term and the short term." He said that savers hoping to lock their savings into the higher rates offered over the shorter term could be disadvantaged. He said: "When their short-term fixed rates end, they could find themselves dropping into a lower variable rate. If they try and fix again over a short term, they could find themselves fixing into a rate that is lower than the longer-term rate they were offered in the first place.

Mr Pinder said the current shape of long and short-term interest rates was extremely unusual. It had only been replicated in 1994, when the UK unexpectedly withdrew from the exchange rate mecha-

He believes that during next year the position on long and short-term interest rates could

products include the Alliance & Leicester. Bristol & West. Coventry, Woolwich. Portman and Norwich & Peterborough. The interest rates tend to be around the 7 per cent level, again with the better rates offered over the shorter term.
For example: Coventry Building Society offers a three year bond that has a rate of 7.4 percent on the minimum balance of £5,000, while balances of greater than £10,000 carry a

rate of 7.6 per cent. The Alliance & Leicester also offers a three-year fixedrate bond for those who have more than £5,000 to invest. The rate kicks off at 7.1 per cent in the first year, and rises

to 7.3 per cent in year three. Those who are wary about locking up their money for too long a period when interest rates are in such a state of flux, could consider a new account from Flemings Save & Pros-per. The Sovereign 30-day notice account offers savers 7.65 gross on balances of over £25,000, smaller balances of between £5,000 and £9,999 attract a 7.2 per cent interest

The rate beats the other returns offered by some of the other UK banks. For example, the Abbey National Investor 90 account attracts an interest of 5.45 per cent on £5,000, while the C&G 90 account attracts interest of 6 per cent on the same amount invested. Sainsbury's instant access account, which has anracted £900 million since launch. earns interest of 6.5 per cent.

Get in a five way to a c

Investment taken on trust

f you fear the impact of a stock market crash on your wealth, then L put your money into investment trusts, or so says the investment trust industry. The Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC) is arguing that investment trusts recover faster from a stock market crash than any other form of investment, including unit trusts.

Others see these claims as a cynical attempt to narrow the discounts that have dogged this sector. A trust is at a discount when its net asset value is higher than its share price. Today the average investment trust discount is around 12 per cent, having risen steadily since it peaked at 3 per cent in the halovon days of 1993. Discounts make trusts unpopular with investors. But if they suddenly rushed to buy investment

trusts, then these discounts would

AITC figures show that at the end of December 1990, a lump sum of £100 placed in investment trusts at the end of October 1987 would have yielded more than £130, compared with less than £120 for unit trusts. The reasons for this speedier recovery lie in the rules governing investment trusts and special features such as gearing (borrowing money). In the event of a market correction, the fund managers do not have to sell stock to meet unit redemption as is the case with unit trusts. Investment trusts can also resort to gearing -- to put their trusts back on the running track.

However, some experts would argue that history does not always have a habit

of repeating itself. Ian Millward of Chase de Vere, the Bath independent financial advisers, said: There is no reason why they should recover any quicker. They're talking about the past. There is no logical reason for investments to behave in the same way: Topperforming investment trusts usually beat top unit trusts because of gearing.

Mr Millward also said that investors who are worried by stock market volatility should stay away. "People have been predicting a crash for two years, as soon as the FTSE went: over 3,000 points. The market is

massively overvalued." People investing

in the stock market should be aware that

there could be a correction at any time.

SUSAN EMMETT

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as Patrick Collinson says the single currency buzz has prompted 'unbelievably good' mortgage deals

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## Get in a fix and find the way to a cheaper loan

pound may enter the single European currency earlier than expected has sent money market interest rates tumbling and produced a stampede of cheap three-year to

five-year fixed rate mortgages.
Leading mortgage brokers
are struggling to find superlatives to describe the recent fixed-rate deals - London & Country said they are "unbe-lievably good", while John Charcol described them as "a ino-brainer". They also give warning that the deals may disappear if sentiment turns

against early ERM entry. The current variable mortgage rate is between 7.9 and 8.45 per cent, largely depending on whether the lender is a mutual or not. But after the fall in money market rates over the last two weeks, mortgage com-panies are offering loans pegged for five years at only 6.5 per cent. In real terms, that translates into a monthly mortgage payment saving of Ell6 on a £100,000 loan, taking pay-ments to £655 per month, secording to Abbey National

director, said: The recent talk London & Country are more of early EMU entry has had a likely to be recommended a very marked impact on fiveyear rates, bringing them down by at least 0.5 per cent. With variable rates at 8.45 per cent, five-year fixes of under 7 per cent look pretty close to a oneway bet. It would need base rates below 5.25 per cent before mortgage rates would match these fixes. To me it's a bit of a

Rex Kirk, Bradford & Bingley lending manager, said: "It is difficult to see the standard mortgage rate going be-low 7 per cent in the next three to four years. A five-year fix at these sorts of rates is a reason-able gamble."

John Charcol is currently recommending five-year fixed rate offers from Abbey National at 6.49 per cent, but gives warning that the rate is only open to those people able to put down a 25 per cent deposit. For borrowers unable to put down such a deposit, it recommends NatWest's 6.99 five-year fix. which requires a deposit of just

However, borrowers who go to rival mortgage broker

Bank base rates have risen four times in the last five months. and the Bank of England is expected to push through more small rises to choke off inflationary pressures in the economy. But the City expects rates to peak in mid-1998 and then

begin to fall. Patrick Bunton, London & Country mortgage manager, said that for borrowers to maximise the gains from a fixed mortgage, a three-year peg will allow homeowners to protect themselves from the expected rate rises in 1998, but also take advantage of failing

variable rates in 1998-99. But the key to picking the right short-term fixed-rate mortgage is avoiding punitive early redemption penalties, which can often be levied long after the benefits of the fixed rate have run out. Some threeyear fixed-rate loans will still charge a redemption penalty up to four years after the fix has

Mr Bunton recommends a 6.99 per cent three-year fix ing Society, although this is available only to horrowers able to put down a 30 per cent deposit. For a deposit of only 5 per cent, Mr Bunton recommends a 7.29 per cent fixed-rate loan from Nationwide.

Both the National Counties and Nationwide loan have early redemption penalties. which run for three years. It is also worth noting that National Counties is the society that could potentially pay members more than ES,000 on demutualisation, although it denies it is going to convert.

What if the three-year peg expires and variable rates have still not fallen? Mr Bunton said that as the redemption penalty will also have expired, borrow-ers could simply fix again at the rate offered or shop around for another lender offering an at-

Advice on whether to pick a five-year or three-year fix — or whether to fix at all — is easily obtainable from a mortgage broker. The branches of building societies or banks will be more circumspect.

A Nationwide spokesman said: "Even the bravest mortgage lender is not going to try to foresee interest rates six months ahead. We approach mortgage advice by talking about the different options and what is suitable for them. Currently about half of our customers are taking out fixedrate mortgages, which is cer-tainly higher than usual."



TAKING OUT a fixed-rate mortgage is not the only way for homebuyers to avoid the expected rise in interest rates over the next 12 months. The alternative is to opt for a

A discount mortgage cuts the repayments on a loan for a specified period of time, usually for a minimum of six months. Some lenders are currently offering discounts running over two years, reducing the variable rate by up to 2 per cent, from around 8.45 per cent to between 6.5 per cent

and 7 per cent.

Ian Darby, director at John Charcol, said: They are for the cognoscenti for whom the long-term security of fixed, level payments is not so important. They are for people more

willing to take a gamble on where in

rates are going."

At the end of the discount period, the mortgage simply reverts to the standard variable rate. For borrowers who believe that interest rates will be heading down in 1999, then a discount loan may be the answer.

But discount mortgages come with the same wealth warnings as fixed-rate mortgages: Amanda Davidson of Holden Mechan, the broker, said: "Discount mortgages lock you in in the same way as fixed oans. You have to check carefully the redemption penalties and other clauses. I prefer the correct range of fixed deals over longer periods of time. Short-term fixes and

fixed rate is not just for people about to buy a new home. Any existing borrower can fix their loan, but first you need to check if the costs outweigh the benefits.

■ Will changing your loan result in an early redemption penalty? If your existing loan is a discount, cashback or fixed mortgage, it is very likely to have redemption penalties which could more than cancel out the benefits of switching to a new fix. Is the mortgage equivalent to more than

75 per cent of the value of your home? If it is, then a mortgage indemnity premium will be required, again making a switch to another Legal fees, valuation fees and other

disbursements will be incurred in remortging. These can add up to around £750 to 2800. Fixed-rate mortgages will also carry an arrangement fee, typically around £200.

Therefore, the cost of remortgaging adds up to at least £1,000. However, even with such costs, remortgaging can make sense Ian Darby, director at John Charcol, the mortgage broker, said: "The first thing you should do is to contact your existing lender

and check what deals they have on offer." Many lenders will allow an existing borrower to switch into one of their fixedrate products at little cost rather than lose their customer. This is obviously cheaper than incurring legal and valuation fees. But if the lender is unable to offer an attractive fixed rate, switching to another lender can still result in significant savings.

Mr Darby said: "We will make a straightforward comparison. In the vast majority of cases, it is still worthwhile making the move. On a £100,000 mortgage, a 1 per cent difference in the mortgage rate is worth £1,000 a year. So a five-year fix. saving £5,000, easily wipes out the £1,000 remort-

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#### **INCLUDED OUT 52**

New system gives small investors the cold shoulder

## WEEKEND

**HOME COMFORT 57** 

Equity-release schemes enjoy new lease of life



## THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



#### **Ignorance** rife over cost of retirement

ost people dream of a le-sured retirement but few know how they will pay for this happy state. An NOP poll for the Birmingham Midshires Building Society shows that 68 per cent of people have no idea what size their pensions will be, while 20 per cent of those business that they could street their pensions. believed that they could survive on the state pension alone.

The self-employed must provide for themselves in old age, without the easy option of a company scheme. The uncertainty of their income makes it hard for them to take on longterm commitments. Ali Tay-lor, left, is about to embark on pension planning. She has been spurred into action by the experience of a colleague who has found starting a pension at 35 more expensive than be

For a guide to pensions for the self-employed, read Go It Alone (page 35), the latest in our series focusing on people

ern Europe is the emerging market on our doorstep. These

countries have much healthier

characteristics than the markets of South-East Asia and no

great correlation to the US

market, which improves their

risk profile in the event of a

This last is pertinent after hints this week from Alan

sharp fall in US markets."

## INSIDE



Anne Ashworth on the autumn mortgage sale

INVESTMENT

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Fixed-rate loans and savings. The best buys



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**WEEKEND MONEY** 

## Affair could end in tears

The British love affair with emerging markets has always been stormy. Lately investors in Far East funds have suffered the worst pain, as Asian stock markets fell sharply. More falls seem likely this week as the men from the International Monetary Fund

drop in on troubled Indonesia. Far Eastern fans are looking jealously at emerging market addicts who put their trust in Latin America. Here some ave risen by more than 50 per cent over 12 months. Those who have made money down South America way are now looking to Eastern Europe, as the next region to provide strong returns. Russia. Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary are expected to bring rich pickings for investors as they grasp the free market in an ever-closer embrace, like Boris Yeltsin welcoming Tony Blair to the Kremlin this week.

More than £600 million from UK investors has been poured in to emerging market funds over the past four years. There are nearly 50 unit and investment trusts on offer. The arguments in favour of investing in emerging markets are very strong. Growth in Europe and America is slowing, while growth in emerging markets is speeding up as Third World countries become mechanised, large domestic populations become richer, and the developed world switches to manufacturing goods in low-wage markets. The economic arguments for

investing in an emerging fund are qualified. Investors have to take a five-year to ten-year view. only 5 per cent of an entire portiolio should be held in emerging markets, the money should be spread among countries to minimise the risk, and investors should be prepared for a rollercoaster ride.

Caroline Merrell says emerging markets promise much but investors should approach with caution

model for other emerging countries. Unsuitled by some of the immense political instability experienced in Latin America, countries such as Malaysia and Thailand were deemed to be examples of the economic miracle. It is this image that has taken a heating Asia has fallen prey to massive currency devaluations, accompanied by huge falls in stock prices. The exotically named Thai baht. Malaysian ringgit and Indonesian rupiah are now worth a fraction of what they were against the dollar a few months ago. Some funds have seen values fall by as much as 20 per cent in the

Foreign & Colonial, one of the oldest and most experienced of the emerging market investment houses, cut back holdings in the East before the crisis. The price of units in its globally invested fund is now 20 per cent higher than six months ago. Edward Goodchild, Foreign & Colonial Asia fund manager, sald: "It was a disaster waiting to happen. How long its effects will be felt is another matter." He said the seeds were sown in Thailand. where money to build up the economy was borrowed in dollars, in the belief that the value of the baht was somehow permanently wedded to the value of the dollar, irrespective of the performance of the Thai economy. "The mar-

kets had access to overly cheap capital." he said. As the dollar climbed, it quickly became apparent that the baht had to devalue. The sudden fall revealed that much of the money borrowed had been invested in property,

enough returns to service debts. Mr Goodchild added: "To make matters worse the returns from the assets bought by the loans were denominated in the local currency." The ripple effect of problems in Thailand were felt in Malaysia and Indonesia, leading to

Although Mr Goodchild admitted that the arrival of the IMF was bound to shake investors' confidence he does believe that the problems are a temporary setback.

Particularly shocking for the free-market capitalists, such as George Soros, were remarks by Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, who was threatening to ban currency trading. This hint of interventionism again hit the economic miracle tag that had been attached to the region.

owever, Mr Soros and Mr Goodchild are agreed that the crisis is a temporary serback and the economies will bounce back. Mr Goodchild believes that, for the time being. UK investors would get better returns investing elsewhere.

In contrast, Latin America, the other big emerging region, has shown huge returns over the past 12 months. The continent has now fully recovered from the Mexican peso crisis of 1994. Again a sudden devaluation of the currency caused by a big withdrawal of American investment hit all the markets in the region. Some emerging market unit trusts fell by 25 per cent in value in

just one week. However, over the past year

companies of the Far East are driven by the entrepreneurial spirit characterist by the re-The hyperinflation and political instability that characterised the region for gion, returns for those investing in Eastern Europe will be decades seem to have been put earned as the state-run mo-

week launched its new Europe fund, while ING Barings is

also planning a launch.
While share prices in the

nopolies are privatised and the

permanently to rest.

Michael Ashbridge, Save & Prosper investment director, said: The MSCI Latin American index has risen by 46 per nine months it is up 56 per cent." The Aberdeen Latin American fund, one of the trusts most hit by the peso's devaluation, has risen by 36 per cent over the year. Other top-performing fund managers over one year in Latin America include Baillie Gifford, Fleming and Old Mutual - all show returns of

Mr Ashbridge said that with inflation of under 5 per cent in many of the Latin American countries and with big investments from the US continuing to flow into the region, growth was set to continue. He said: "Brazil is going to show among the strongest growth, particularly as the Government is continuing with its privatisation programme."

more than 40 per cent.

Those who fear the wild fluctuations in the economies of the Far East and South America could consider making an emerging-market investment in a fund rather closer to home. The pictures of Tony. Blair meeting Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President,earlier this week reveal how far the spirit of perestroika has permeated since the demolition of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Fund managers are now looking to the countries of the former Soviet bloc to provide some of the excitement gener-ated by investments further

Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, that US countries move to a more European economic model. is edited by Anne Ashworth Mr Ashbridge said: "Eastmarkets were too high. 12 MILLION INVESTORS TRUST FIDELITY examilian carried can h

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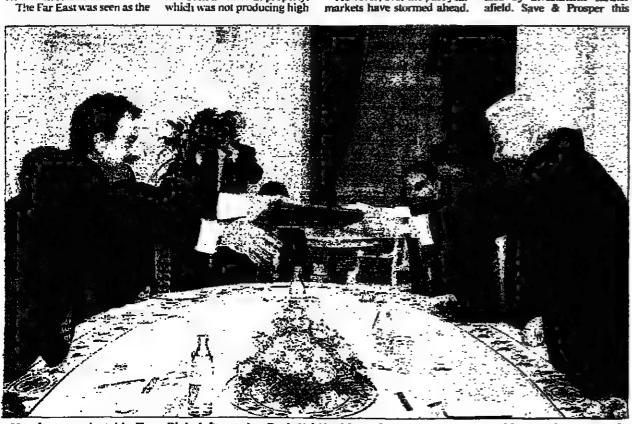
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Hands across the table: Tony Blair, left, meeting Boris Yeltsin this week in Russia, a market with emerging potential

FEATURE



A OF THE YEA

Women on the front line: the battle begins





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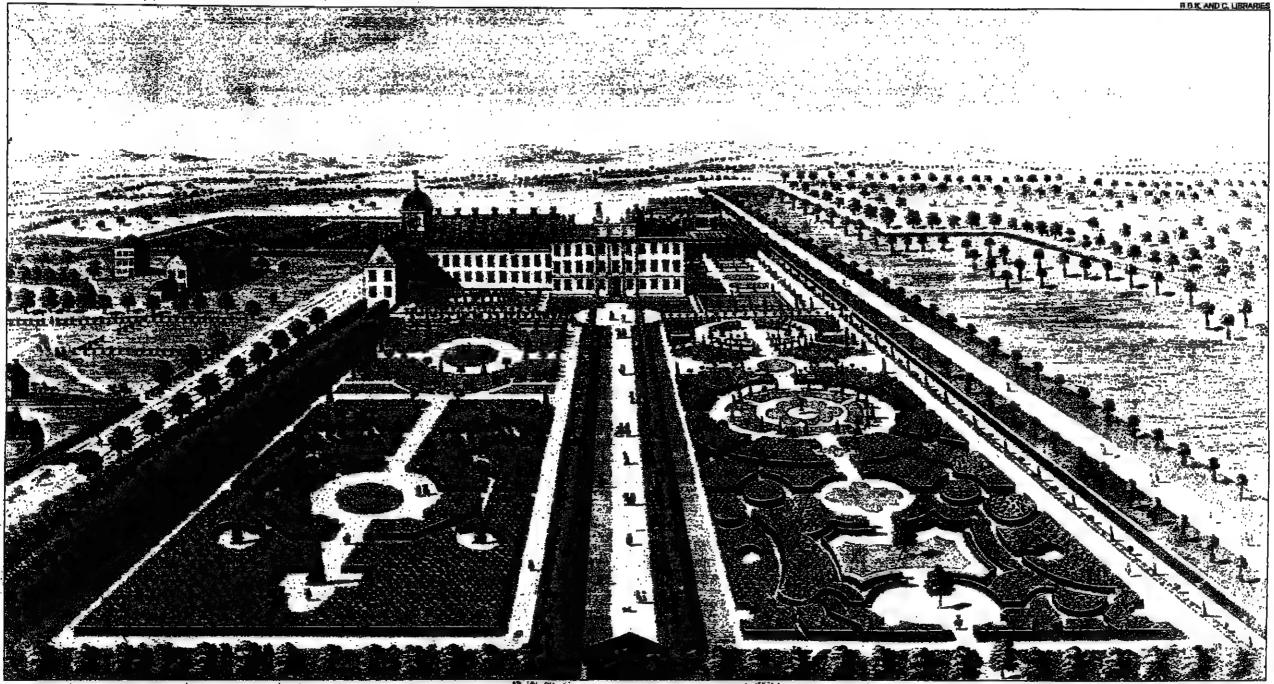


A guide to the best late holiday breaks

age 29

## WEEKEND

## A memorial garden for Diana

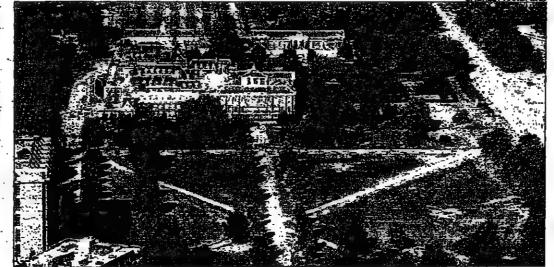


The way it was a hand-coloured engraving by Joannes Kip of the south front of Kensington Palace and its magnificent formal William and Mary landcaped gardens, from a drawing by Mark Anthony Hauduroy, circa 1708



The best
memorial for
Diana,
Princess of
Wales, would
be to restore
the gardens at
her home,
Kensington
Palace, says

**Tim Rock** 



A bird's eye view of the south front of Kensington Palace and its gardens as they are today

errry Kissinger said that you should always wait until ten years after a person's death before giving them a public memorial. Judging by the strength of public feeling, we will not be able to wait so long before commemorating Diana, Princess of Wales. Earl Spencer has already announced that a permanent memorial will be built in the grounds of Althorp, the family home in Northamptonshire, though he has not specified what, exactly, it will be. The public will, however,

ified what, exactly, it will be.

The public will, however, demand more. Gordon Brown has been appointed to chair a committee which, with help from the Spencer family, will

choose from a stupefying array of suggestions how the Princess should be remembered

Among the more widespread of these are: a Diana airport, a Diana Bank Holiday, a Diana Prom, a Diana pizza, a Diana rugby match, a Diana peace prize, a Diana mall, a Diana stamp, a Diana Aids ribbon, a Diana royal yacht, Diana "affordable accommodation for the homeless" and countless schools, hospitals, roundabouts and even the Diana M25.

The problem with so many of these ideas is that the best memorials come not from committees but from the heart, from mourning poets, painters

Continued on page 3

SHOPPING 45 GARDENING 6,7 PROPERTY 8,9 PETS 12 HOME LIFE 13 FAITH 16 COUNTRY LIFE 17 TRAVEL

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## She's a high achiever — and that includes sex

Why the surprise at top women admitting to affairs outside marriage? It's been going on for centuries, says Rosalind Miles

Year lunch in London, nearly half the high achievers reported that they had had affairs during their married lives.

What is more they had no regrets. They even had the nerve to regard themselves as good role models for younger women. Public reaction was swift and harsh: it was as if these women had confessed to cooking their babies and eating them with salt.

Why the surprise? High-flying men have always done the same. The rules for success are still made by men. If successful men commit adultery, that becomes a measure of success for women, too. For power-players like Sir James Goldsmith, it went with the turf. It meant no loss of status, often the reverse. When the scandal of Burton's boss Sir Ralph "five times a night" Halpern broke, stock in the company soared.

The Prince of Wales gained far more clout from his affair with Camilla Parker Bowles than from defending architecture or talking to plants. The election of President Clinton proved that a man thought

o high-flying women are adulterous, a breathless survey revealed to the world this week. At the annual Women of the call it "prowess behaviour": top people doing what they want to. just because they can. Top women have done it throughout history. The promiscuity of the Empress Messalina, for example, stunned ancient Rome. Catherine the Great's legendary appetites in 18thcentury Russia are well known.

Sex is also a weapon that successful women have used to reach the top, although the eleverest do so without having to perform. Women of the Year types take this in their stride. "When anyone accuses me of sleeping my way to the top," said one female director of an advertising agency, "it only means that I'm at the top and they aren't." Women have always been open

to temptation, as every early Christian priest knew. The sin of Eve was lovingly chronicled in sermon, literature and artwork. In Irish legend, Maeve, the warrior queen, accommodated 30 sexual partners a night, while her husband Fergal could only manage seven. Chaucer's voluble Wife of Bath speaks volumes for other



randy medieval wives. More recently. Edwina Mountbatten allegedly influenced British foreign

through her affair with Pandit Nehru. "Edwina and I." confessed her husband, "spent our lives getting in and out of other peoples' beds." Adultery was also endemic among the female Bloomsberries:

Vanessa Bell called her affair with Duncan Grant her "left-handed marriage" and bore his child. The list goes on. Harold Macmillan's wife Dorothy pursued a lifelong affair with the bisexual Bob Boothby, who also fancied the Kray twins, the 1950s East End gangsters. Frieda Lawrence used ambush men while out on



هڪذار من رالاِمل

From left: Vanessa Bell, Edwina Mountbatten, Lady Dorothy Macmillan and Marjorie Proops. All enjoyed adulterous affairs

country walks with her husband D.H. After a quick coupling, she would catch up with Lawrence. sublimely indifferent to the grass stains on her gown or the dead leaves in her hair. Marjorie Proops, the Daily Mirror agony aunt, was in a marriage that had been a sham from its disastrous first night. She conducted a secret affair for almost 30 years

n its heyday, the imperial adventure opened many doors L and women went through them just as fast as men. The film White Mischief gives a vivid portrait of the sunburnt world of gin slings and rampant sex. "Are

Kenya?" was a commonplace quip of the time.

Richard Dawkins have managed to identify a male "selfish gene". No matter that Dawkins insists this does not give men permission to sleep around. It is now received wisdom that men have it in their genes to jump out of their jeans as often as they can. Conversely, this half-digested piece of pop science goes, a woman is programmed to find one good man and true to be the best father for her child and provider for herself. This sentimental claptrap takes no account of simple female lust. In reality. monogamy is no more natural a

Modern researchers such as

men. If it were, it would not have needed to be framed in such a

panoply of legal and religious coercion, and backed up by physical violence when they failed.

Well into this century, with the declared intent of upholding a man's power over his wife, English indexe refused dispurses to lish judges refused divorces to women who had been battered and ill-treated by their husbands. Our legal system enshrined a man's right to beat his wife with a stick as thick as his thumb. Only in 1991 did it become illegal for wives to be raped at will.

Women still managed to be adulterous, however, and today's successful women have the opportunity and the means. Women-

away from home whenever they like. They use their own money to pay for candle lit dinners and attractive clothes.

By invading "the man's world", they have learnt to enjoy professional automomy and economic power. My own quick straw poll of a few highearning women produced numerous personal reasons for adultery. too. Having an affair conveys confidence, they said, an enhanced sense of well-being and enjoyment of life. It can be a welcome reminder of womanhood after the pressures of a business world where femininity is suppressed as the price of professionalism. If the affair is with a work colleague, the sense of illicit pleasure is inreased. A new partner recreates the wonder and delight of sex that a familiar body fails to stir. "It's such a buzz." said a woman lawyer. "When it happens, I'm.

walking on air."

Put like this, the question is not why do some women have affairs. but why don't more? And to ask the question at all shows how deeply sexist our thinking is. For despite all the modern signals, we still believe that men propagate their seed while women want love, not sex. Perhaps it is time to kiss this myth goodbye.

• Rosalind Miles is the author of The Women's History of the World

## Women go into battle

Both sexes have the right to defend

their nation, says John Nichol (below)

t was reported on the front page of The Times this week that Mr Blair intends to ask the public if they approve of women in combat roles, it is a little late for that: the first female aircrew joined Royal Air Force combat squadrons a number of years ago to fly its Tornado and Jaguar jets. And it is not just the RAF:

the Army has women undercover with 14 Intelligence Company in Northern Le-land; their task is to conduct covert surveillance against known IRA "players"

Many of the UK's littleknown prisoner of war interrogation units are staffed by female officers: friends who have experienced the woman's

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touch on "Conduct After Capture" courses testify that women are far more efficient interrogators than men.

Of course, it is not just in recent years that we have seen an upsurge in military girl-power. From the days of Oueen Boadicea through to



Odette Churchill, who served with the Second World War's Special Operations Executive in occupied France, women

have made daunting fighters. But it is still the male perspective that dominates. As Sarah Ford, from Northern Ireland's undercover unit. says of her male comrades: "I was a huge shock to these lads. They thought they were James Bond and did not want a big soft girly messing up their bravado and antics. But they soon realised I could kick and

fight like the next man." But should they be allowed to light, and why should we bother to ask the public's opinion now? Could it be that new Labour would prefer to abdicate its decision-making responsibilities so that when things go wrong they can hold up their collective new hands and say. "Sorry, not our decision, Guv"?

eedless to say, the debate will have feminists ranting for equal rights while some crusty old generals will be wheeled out to dribble about the effect on regimental traditions. But what about those who really matter, the women who want to fight and the men who will serve alongside them?

Steve and Sue are RAF fighter pilots who are also partners (names changed to protect the innocent). Steve supports his girlfriend 100 per cent: "Sue's a bloody good pilot and I'd go to war with her

any day."
But what if the worst happened?"It could happen at any time to me or to her. That's what the job is about. You accept that or get out."

One of the arguments most used against female troops is the question of a woman's physical strength and mental ability to do the job. Sue is adamant that, as long as selection standards are not changed, females can compete on an equal level with their male counterparts.

I have seen many men who were neither physically nor mentally up to coping with military life; they were allowed to bumble on regardless But the question of selection and training is much more interesting, and here lies part of the problem. A few years ago, the RAF was forced to allow women to train to be aircrew and, in the ill-judged



rush to appear politically correct, training standards were allowed to fall.

A flying instructor from that time was told to ensure that his female students passed the course, regardless of ability; if he was not willing to do this, the hierarchy would find someone who was. This ludicrous position helps neither the many female

really can make the So how will the Government seek approval for this new venture? An internal MoD document is reported to say that using the Central Office

candidates who

of Information's weekly survey will be "the quickest and cheapest method" to test the water, and \*less likely to attract public attention". Despite efforts to avoid the issue, there will be one thing guaranteed to attract public attention: our first female prisoner of war.

In the military's last three major conflicts, the Falklands, the Gulf and Bosnia, we have always had British PoWs; one can presume that, during the next conflict - and there will be one - things will not be that much different. How would the media and the public react to the spectacle of a British woman being beaten and paraded on television by her foreign captors? Dr John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, is said to be privately worried about the effect female PoWs might have on morale. And so he should be: but is there a difference between

male and female PoWs? I would say yes. As a PoW in Iraq. I regularly saw other male prisoners being beaten and tortured; the sight and

The Iraqis

tried to

strip and

sexually

molest her

sound was degrading, horrific and something that will never leave me, but I did not try to intervene because it would have been

pointless. However, there was a woman who was captured. Major Rhonda Cornum was an

American Army doctor who had been shot down in a Blackhawk helicopter while on a search-andrescue mission. Both her arms had been broken in the crash and, despite her incredible pain, the Iraqis tried to strip and sexually molest her on a number of occasions.

At one point, a young American soldier tried to prevent this and was beaten to pulp. She did not ask for help, but he felt duty bound to protect her. Was he wrong? What would the armchair warriors who comment on our nightly news programmes from comfortable studios have said if he

I have reacted differently if it had been my female crewmate being raped? I would like to think I would have had the courage to do something, however fruitless; thank God I did not have to find out. But is it a man's duty to protect?

American Major Rhonda Cornum, left, was captured in the Gulf War. Fit Lt Jo Salter, above, became the first female Tornado pilot in 1995

A frontline officer offered his views regarding women in battle; he was adamant they would be as effective as men. am sure he is right. I then raised the possibility of one of his female officers being captured and raped or being repatriated pregnant with the

he very notion re-pulsed him. Regardless of government studies, women are already on the front line; if we are to allow them into combat. then it is about time we aired such thoughts.

I recently spoke to a 19-yearold woman who was learning to fly; her one ambition is to become a fighter pilot. She looked at me in pity when I asked her if she had fears of being captured and tortured. Exactly the same fears as you had, I imagine," she replied. Why do you feel the need to worry about me? It's the job [ want to do and I'm capable of it. If I get captured it will be my problem, not yours." This is the crux of the

matter: female combatants do not ask for or require special consideration; the problem is male-generated and for males

to overcome. The public can be consulted about it until the cows come home, but it is the men, especially those in the military, who will have to confront their fears and prejudices.

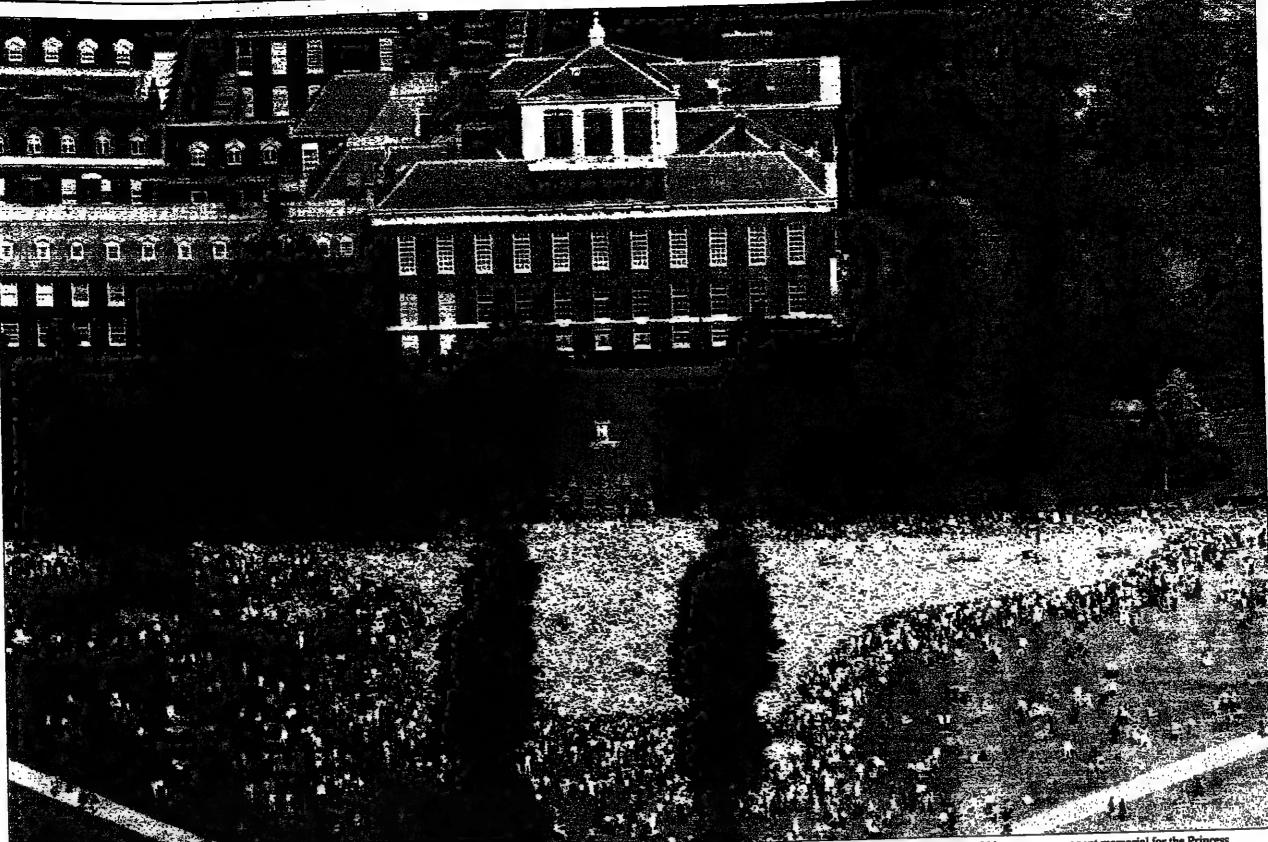
A female armed-forces journalist recently argued with me that women are the untapped reserve that the military desperately needs if it is to tackle

staffing problems. I think she is right; as we men come to terms with our deep-seated prejudices, women will rightly be allowed to fight for their country, and sooner rather than later. I am confident that women will acquit themselves with honour. When that day comes, however, I hope and pray that my worst nightmares never come true.



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The south front of Kensington Palace and the sea of flowers placed there by thousands of grieving people in instant tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales: perhaps the palace gardens should become a permanent memorial for the Princess

Continued from page 1 and composers, grieving spouses and the occasional

eccentric. No monument erected in memory of a spouse can surpass the Taj Mahal; few could be more touching than the Gothic folly at Clytha, Erected in the year 1790 by purpose of relieving a mind afflicted by the loss of a most excellent wife". Such inspired memorials are not produced by committees.

The last royal spouse to cause such nationwide mourning was Prince Albert. Queen Victoria overruled the people's choice — a design that had won a public competition — to erect something more grandiose, the towering tribute fac-ing the Albert Hall.

A national monument should avoid sentimentality and obscurity - countless forgotten sculptures and statues exist across London (who ever notices Byron in Park Lane or Simon Bolivar in Belgrave Square?). It should attempt to avoid controversy. And there is one proposal, under serious consideration by government and by the heritage establishment, that

may fulfil all these ambitions. Since Kensington Palace was Diana's home, since it became, for weeks after her death, the shrine where she was most mourned, where the people left their tributes in banks of flowers, there is a powerful case for it to become the site of her memorial.

The proposal is to re-store William and Mary's formal gardens in front of the palace, together with the "Wilderness garden to the north, beyond the Orangery. At present, this is a mess; thronged with people sunbathing, snacking, bicycling or walking their dogs. But once it was one of the most stylish

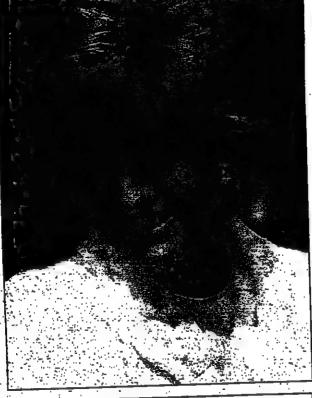
gardens in Europe.

Lord Rothschild, the chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, which allocates Lottery money, is said to be excited by the suggestion.

Dr Edward Impey, the curator of the Historic Royal Palaces Agency, says it would be "a wonderful idea; there is a long tradition of memorial gardens". Dr Simon Thurley, the director of the Museum of London, says: "It would be a real prize to restore the garden" and that "it would be one of the grandest formal

gardens in Europe." Or Thurley believes it would also be appropriate. There was a very tragic death at the heart of all this. Queen Mary died, aged 32, when she and William III were very much inlove Kensington Palace is already a memorial to a

youthful royal death." The palace was used by William because he hated Whitehall, low-lying as it was on the Thames. He bought



Wren's haven is ripe for a new dignity



The forlorn Alcove in Kensington Palace gardens

THE GARDEN Alcove by Sir Christopher Wren was the second building Queen Anne added to the formal gardens of William and Mary at Kensington

The Orangery, by Van-brugh and Hawksmoor, had been her first. And if that is truly monumental, her garden alcove is heroic in scale at 20ft high and 20ft wide. Its pediment sits on twin cornices supported by elegant paired Corinthian columns. Between each pair of columns is a niche with a scallop-shell head. Whether they ever bore statues is not recorded. The Alcove comfortably

seats 12 people on an oak bench within its semi-circular interior, enhanced by a grandly panelled oak lining. Its cost was immense: by 1706 £400 had been disbursed, and the following year the banker-mason received more than £500 for further work. The Alcove

sat at the end of the central poath running down from Kensington Gore. In 1857, it was moved to the northeast side of Kensington Gardens, and now sits forlornly, focused on nothing but Tarmac paths and a group of buildings at the head of

the Italian water gardens. In the 1940s, the Wren-Society made an urgent plea for it to be brought back from its present inappropriate position near the head of the Serpentine, and also urged that the South Garden be restored as an object lesson in gardening as practised in the age of Sir Christopher Wren.

One of the benefits if the Alcove were to be moved back to its original site might be that it would exclude some of the noise of the traffic. And if, in addition, the two walls which once ran from it east and west were restored, the garden could again be a peaceful haven.

what was then called Nottingham House and turned it into the palace. The route between the palace and Whitehall was known as the Rue du Roi. This was unpronounceable to locals, who quickly began to refer to it as Rotten Row.

Then, in 1698, Whitehall burnt down, leaving Kensington Palace as the only royal seat of monarchy in the capital and the garden was installed to lend it appropriate grandeur. The landscaping comprised a series of small, formal gardens with box hedges and decorative trees and bushes. Dr Thurley believes the

garden would cost just over E3 million to restore, plus about E60,000 a year to run, if three gardeners were employed. Some, however, believe such

restoration would be inap-propriate. John Dixon Hunt, Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania and an expert on Anglo-Dutch gardens of this period, says that, if the memorial is to be a garden, it should be a modern one.
The Dutch garden that we

would recreate could not be the same as the original, because the setting has changed. What's wrong with a modern garden? Let's have a marvellous competition," he says, adding: "Diana, above all, would have appreciated something modern rather than retrospective."

rolessor Dixon Hunt argues that Hampton Court is the royal seat we associate with William III, not Kensington Palace. But supporters use the example of Hampton Court to demonstrate the feasibility of the project: a successful precedent for such a restoration is its new Privy Garden.
We have a good idea of what
William and Mary's gardens
at Kensington Palace looked

like from a hand-coloured engraving, circa 1708. Drawn by Mark Anthony Hauduroy. it shows the front of the palace with a symmetrical garden and a path as its central axis. The small, box-hedged gardens each side of the off-centre path are of different widths,

shapes and designs. Hauduroy's drawing was made before Queen Arme up-rooted the box — she hated its smell — and shows the decorative stilt-hedges which lined the central path. It also records her two costly but delightful garden buildings: the Orangery of 1705 by Vanbrugh and Hawksmoor, and the Garden Alcove of 1706-07 by Sir Christopher Wren.

Behind the Orangery, between what is now the Bayswater Road and the palace, lay a 30-acre former orchard (known as the Old Ground). William was determined to create the "Wilderness" garden in its place. Work began by 1701, and by March of 1702 Henry Wise

had planted 3,500 shrubs in a "Plantation of Evergreene hedges and flowering Shrubbs in the Quarters", at a cost of just under £400. But by March 8. William was dead, killed in a rding accident.

Queen Anne's succession Hampton Court and Windsor. but at Kensington Palace,

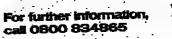
Wise was instructed to continue on "the Old Ground as now made and when finished to be kept in Good Order". Sizeable payments made to him show that he completed the Wilderness, which was divided by broad paths into six meant an end to works at areas, the most ingenious of which was the transformation of a gravel pit into a sunken

Some people believe that. coupled with the restoration of the formal garden to the south of the palace, the re-creation of the Wilderness would provide the perfect setting for a small stone temple bearing reliefs inside of classical Diana, the Huntress. In his address at the funeral, Lord Spencer re-

marked on the irony that, while Diana was the classical goddess of hunting, his sister was "the most hunted person in the modern world".

Her death gave rise to a huge tide of public grief. That grief may yet be harnessed in the form of the most stylish memorial garden Britain has







#### Mike Cable discovers why there always seem to be animals roaming the pages of Deborah Moggach's novels

## Jiminy, she loves crickets



Simon King's Reptile World is at Palmers in north London

he sound of singing crickets creates a dis-tinctly Mediterra-nean feel in the Hampstead home and garden of Deborah Moggach. "It's like being on holiday all the time," says the novelist, who buys the cicada-like insects for £2.50 a tub from a pet shop "In those days the owners down the road in Camden.

During winter she keeps the crickets in an aquarium inside the house, but in summer she she recalls. releases boxfuls of them into It was here that the young the garden, often causing passers-by to do a double take. You see people suddenly pausing, cocking an ear and looking about them in a puzzled sort of way." she says. It was her partner for the

north London.

pasi three years — a young Hungarian painter whose name she is reluctant to reveal, Moggach has always been adding coyly that it is, any-way, impossible to spell who prompted the idea. She had asked him what he most missed about Hungary and, about the sound of crickets, she knew immediately how to

make him feel at home. Moggach, aged 49, has been going to Palmers, one of the oldest pet shops in the world. for more than 35 years. As a

child, she used to pass it every day on her way to school, often popping in just to gaze at the puppies and kittens, but also drawn more to the exotic creepy-crawlies in the reptile section upstairs, now run independently by Simon King, a former rocker, as King's Rep-

didn't mind how long you hung ground the shop; it was like going to the zoo but free,"

Deborah first bought live crickets - as food for the salamanders that were among her many early pets. They were always escaping, and I remembered how you would hear them singing all round the house," she says.

"crazy" about animals. "My mother used to illustrate horsey books and I was mad about horses," she says. "I used to have an imaginary animal life which involved galloping around London, neighing, tossing my head and tying myself up to railings."

At the same time she had an endless succession of pets. starting with a pair of Californian Green Lizards. "I had all the usual things, such as



محدرمن رالإمل

Deborah Moggach, wrapped up with an albino Burmese python at her favourite pet shop, and Simon King with a bearded dragon and, on his shoulder, a blue-tongued skink

my favourite shop

rabbits, guinea pigs and ham-sters, but reptiles and amphib-ians were what I liked best, especially newts and lizards,"

she says. It was an interest she never grew out of, At Bristol University she kept two rabbits that roamed free in her room. And a close friend vividly recalls the "assorted livestock", including three great crested newts, that had the run of the Moggach household after she

In her novels - the two most

recent of which, Seesaw and Close Relations, are being developed for television -- pets feature frequently and symboli-

Cally.

"Gerbils and hamsters, for instance, are a sign of the continuity of life," she says. The characters in my books are always divorcing and row-ing, with terrible things happening to them, but in the background there is this scraping noise as the hamster goes round and round on its wheel, unperturbed by all the

"And I always have horrible rabbits in my books. There is a particularly horrible one in Close Relations, a moth-eaten old buck that growls and stamps its feet and bites everybody, a family pet that has outlived its welcome to become

a focus for any family aggro." After her marriage, by which she had two children. ended in divorce, Moggach lived with Mel Calman, The Times cartoonist, for ten years until his death from a heart

alman was not an animal person, she says, "but he didn't make a fuss until one of the kids let a gerbil escape and it ended up in his hair while he was asleep. He leapt up like a Victorian maiden. screaming and cowering in a corner. It was all a bit traumatic and after that we had to be a bit more careful about

keeping things shut in". The only creatures, other than the crickets, she keeps are two cats. But she could be

tempted to something a little more exotic - she was very taken with one of the pale yellow and white albino pythons that Mr King breeds, although slightly put off by the prospect of it growing to a full-length of 18ft. She was even tempted by a blue-tongued

What she would really like, she says, is an armadillo. Or even an anteater. They're so wonderfully prehistoric," she

In the meantime, she would recommend singing crickets to anyone. They're cheap and easy, and make jolly good presents: they're unusual and they bring great pleasure."

● King's Reptile World, Upstairs at Palmers, 35-37 Parkway, London NW1 (DIF)-284 0730).

grubby but lined, interlined

#### BARGAINS

There are bargains to be had at markets, boot sales junk shops and stalls all over the country. Let loose on them with £100, who would you buy?

SET in a Norfolk village amid the flat acres of agribusiness reclaimed from the Wash, and stacked with every imaginable item, the wartime aircraft hangar in Terrington has had chequered career.

Dismantled after its mili

tary service and shifted 17 miles, it has been a carrotwashing plant, lorry depot, engineering works and is now the Terrington Furniture Warehouse, run by Mick and Joy Johnson.

More than 7.500so # encompasses the stock of a score of different dealers. You will find an example of every age and style of furniture that has emanated over the past 150 years.

Hoping to brighten a student bedroom, I bought: A Victorian scrap screen pasted with fading book illustrations, £22. Two pairs of glazed cotton curpains, labelled Osborne and Little, £55 --

and including a pelmer, tie-



Screen and two pairs of curtains for just £77

backs and enough fabric to spare to cover a chipboard bedside table, £6. Pink and gold lustre-ware saucer, £1.50. Velvety leaved burgundy begonia, 70p. White wool rug, 630. Two vintage LPs — the Dream of Geronnius with Malcolm Sargent and Julie Birchell's Ambition — £2 each. Organic apples, 80p. Total: £100

SALLY SMITH Terrington Furniture Warehouse, Sutton Road Terrington St Clements. King's Lynn, Norfolk (01553 829748). Open daily, 10am-5pm.



The Aspivenin sting-remover

WHILE on holiday. I was desperate to get bitten by fleas or mites or even mosquitoes so that I could put a product called Aspivenin to the test. The pests must have known, however, because for the first time in living memory I didn't feel a single tell-tale stabbing pain. But some airborne thing did take a fancy to my travelling partner. which gave us the chance to try out this sting-remover on her arm. It

worked perfectly. The Aspivenin is a chunky plastic syringe in a delicate shade of time

#### GADGETS OF THE WEEK

green with four different extractor cups that fit where the needle usually goes. If stung, you place a cup over the itching spot, push in the plunger and a vacuum is created strong enough to suck out the poison — along with any desire to scratch. Aithough the vacuum on the surface of the skin is strong, it will not damage the skin tissue and can be used safely on children. The cups should be rinsed out after use.

The kit comes in a waterproof case and should work on bittes, stings from wasps, bees, mosquitoes, horse flies, ants, spiders, scorpions, snakes, jellyfish and, perish the thought, venomous fish.

THE INSECT REPELLENT qualities of Ban the Bug wristbands are not a patch on their ability to repel humans. The bands give off a pungent pong and, to extend their

ABOVE: Ivory

clock-radio by

Alegai is for

style before

(0171-636

those who put

sound quality;

Philippe Stark for

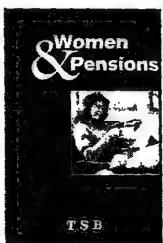
designer Coo Coo

life, come in a re-scalable bag -which, for much of our holiday, is where they remained.

The sickening smell - like sweet paraffin — seems to keep away bugs, but at a price by making you and your clothes stink in the process. Having shaken off the bugs, it's not so easy to shake off the pen and ink.

TIM WAPSHOTT • Aspivenin, £12,95 plus p&p, and Ban The Bug, £9,95 for three plus p&p, both from Innovations (0990 &07060).

#### A compelling tale of sex, work and a decent pension.



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#### RADIOS

ACCORDING to the BBC, the earliest that Digital Audio Broadcasting tech-nology (DAB) will be upon us is next year, and for those who still wallow in the nostalgia of radio's golden age, its arrival can wait at least until the 21st century. While high-tech radios

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undoubtedly a fine thing, the fuzzy reception of an old Bakelite wireless perfectly evokes the warmth and innocence of a different era.

Since the earliest crystal radios, manufacturers have adapted sets shapes and functions to suit the fashions and politics of every era. In 1933, for example, the People's Radio", with a Third Reich symbol on the dial, was released; it received perfectly in Germany but, for propaganda reasons, could not pick up transmissions from abroad. In the Thirties, many

manufacturers cashed in on the vogue for Art Deco, decorating their wooden cases with beautifully carved patterns and cut-outs; in the practical Fifties, models were functional, with simple plastic dials and dean-cut speakers.

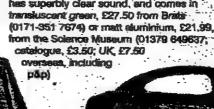
Today, there are radios that are a few millimetres wide, that are waterproof, shatterproof, can be worn on the ear, on a belt or in the shower. Thanks to new technology

which less manufacturers make radios ever smaller and more powerful, as well as adaptable to multiple power sources, it is possible to tune in to programmes wherever you are. All you have to do is pick your size, your shape, your style and colour, and enjoy surfing the waves-



ABOVE: World receiver digital radio ICS SW100E, £199.99, Sony (0990 111999), offers crystalline reception and sound quality

CENTRE: The space-age Apollo cone radio has superbly clear sound, and comes in





(01225 442288) needs no batteries; just wind it up and enjoy the clear sound. Heavy, but ideal for the environmentallyovere home listener RIGHT: Retro-

> style Roberts Revival 550. in blue, claret or green leather cloth finish; large high-quality speakers provide excellent sound, £129, Harrods (0171-730 1234); for stockists.ceil 01709 571722



(ref. 30452) is an entertaining the Maritime Company (01983

ABOVE: "Tuner-Fish" radio with

suction pads or built-in hook to

£19.99, Baby Basics (01793 697300)

attach to tiles or shower hook.



PORTIA COLLINGIL AND JENNIFER RUGOGRETIO

shopping · 5



Black suede mules, Russell & Bromley, 24-

25 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 6903)

nake-up: MICHELLE MARSH

CANARD-DUCHÈNE. CHAMPAGNE SANS FORMALITÉ.

for Hard Candy. Styling: AMANDIP UPPAL

Jane Owen finds the founder editor of the anarchic comic relaxing in his greenhouse with a flask of coffee

## Viz man tries some fernery business

#### ME AND MY GARDEN GRAHAM DURY

"They died of neglect. They can't take severe cold, although they will usually survive outside, even in this area. They

also need to be watered regularly. I've kept them as a reminder not to neglect the

Dury's tree-fern passion began when he was studying A-level botany. He is colour

blind and so form and structure give

pleasure where colour cannot. The pas-sion has survived a fling with carnivorous plants and saprophytic plants.

the trick is to rub the seeds into the host

bark when they are ripe, in March. And Dury has successfully infected the ram-

pant ivy in his garden with Broom Rape

parasite. Orobanche hederae. The creamy, orchid-like flowers and their brown darts that push out of the soil "stink of armpits, feet, haven't-had-a-wash" says Mr Dury. The smell attracts

Mr Dury, who studied genetic engi-

neering at Leicester University, became a

regular cartoonist for Viz in 1982. Today

he is one of a team of five who "do

Il that now remains of the carnivores is a Venus fly-trap, but Dury has managed to infect his apple tree with mistletoe—

remaining plants."

hen the children are asleep and the household chores are done, Graham Dury, founder editor of the exrude and successful adult comic Vic. slips out to the greenhouse he has restored. Inside, he sits on a folding chair with a flask of coffee listening to Radio 4 and watching his tree ferns grow. At a rate of about an inch a year.

"It's sad, really. I have turned into a 35vear-old old lart. My wife is very indulgent. She is understanding even when I buy tree ferns. The last one cost \$400 but, as she says, I don't drink or smoke, so . . .

Unlike some things, size does matter with tree ferns. They don't have a trunk until they are about ten years old and so a voung tree fern looks like an ordinary fern. Dury buys all his ferns from Martin Rickard.

Ferneries were all the rage in Victorian times and, although Dury's respectable Edwardian house in Whitley Bay. Newcastle, is a few years out, it sits well with a restored greenhouse full of tree ferns and a walled garden with two eightfoot Dicksonia antarctica - which reach almost double that when their fronds are out - and two dead ones.



■ PROTECT late cauliflowers from frost by bending the leaves down over the curds. ■ Lift main crop potatoes and remove all damaged or rotten tubers before storing. Lift a few roots of mint and plant shallowly in an 8in pot of gritty compost under glass for winter/early spring picking.

Rotate pot plants on window sills, so that they do not become one-sided as light levels drop in the winter months. Clean down and disinfect greenhouses.

Pick late apples. Spray peaches troubled with peach leaf curi with copper fungicide.

flies that pollinate the plant."



Viz mainstay Graham Dury potters about among his plants. "I have turned into a 35-year-old fart," he confesses

everything", from writing stories and drawing cartoons to putting the magazine

Dury used to keep his carnivorous plants at his mother's house in Nottingham. When he and his wife. Angela, bought their house in Newcastie he indulged his tree fern passion with the hardiest. and most delicate looking. Dicksonia antarctica. Now he has his eye on the unusual tree fern Cyathea medullaris, which has pitch-black stems.

In the greenhouse, where a paraffin heater staves off extremes of cold, there is a 6ft Dicksonia sauarrosa, one of the tailest in Dury's collection. All plants here are grown in large flower pots. including five Cyatheas: australis.

cooperi, fibrosa, and dealbata, or the silver fern. C. dealbata has to be taken

into the house for winter, where it lives in

the attic. Like most tree ferns, which are forest floor plants, too much light will kill

\* STUDIOS

STABLING

antarctica needs a little straw around its front — nothing more, because the rest of the "tree" is dead. It is possible to cut antarctica at the base of its trunk and the fern part will continue growing, provided it is regularly sprayed to imitate the humid conditions of the Southern Hemisphere.

Dury's next project is the restoration of a second greenhouse to house bigger speci-mens. It will have to wait a year or so. He and Angela expect their third child in March, to join Jack, three, and 18-month-old George. "I'll do the greenhouse when the new baby is walking," he says.

British Pteridological Society, c/o Depti Botany, Natural History Museum. omwell Road, London SW7 5BD... Rickard Nursery, Kyrc Park, Tenburg Weils, Worcs WR15 8RP (01885 410282)

#### GARDEN ANSWERS

#### STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

My flowering cherry is 20st high and has a huge root coming from the trunk. The root is is lft across. Sti long, exposed on the surface of the soil. It is also unsightly and makes mowing difficult. Can I remove it without damaging the tree? — A.G. Lilley, Colyton, Devon.

Any cherry root a foot across means that the tree must be 50 to 60 years old. Because this root connects to the base of the trunk, it is roviously one of the half-dozen main roots, and if you sever it you will seriously shock the tree. The cut will also make a huge wound at ground level, where infections can set in. It level, where infections can set in. It would be the beginning of the end for the tree, so live with it. What you can do is to strip the turf off around the root and build up two to three inches of soil beside it (but not against the trunk), so you can returf smoothly over the root and make moving easier. This problem stems from root planting in the first place; there poor planting in the first place; there must have been a main horizontal root high in the rootball at planting time, which was not encouraged to point to the base of the planting hole but left to wander close to the surface. The roots of cherry trees are inclined to throw suckers anyway when damaged, so they should always be encouraged to grow downwards and deeply at planting

I have a beautiful white brug-mansia which is being eaten by an invisible enemy. All the owing points are attacked, and the leaves are a mass of holes. There are no signs of caterpillars. and, anyway, I thought the plant was poisonous. Someone has suggested earwigs. — Mrs imogen Thomas, Uplyme, Dorset.

A Earwigs will be correct. They feed at night, so a torchlit trip into the undergrowth may provide the answer. Mechanical controls include setting traps (upside-down pots stuffed with dry grass stuck on a garden cane), from which they can be led and slaughtered during the day. If you need to spray, use permethrin or pirimphos-methyl, applied late on a warm evening. Earwigs will even eat clematis, which are potentially fethal. I plant ed a Clematis montana this spring and they are every new shoot it tried to make for weeks on end. At the moment the earwigs are all asleep in my sunflower heads; thousands of them, I am sure.

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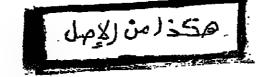
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## Plants that make a grand exit

Even in decline, some species keep their looks, says Barbara Abbs

ost of us try to have our gardens looking good all year, partic-ularly if they are Unfortunately, unless a garden is geared to one magnificent seasonal display - rhododendrons, roses or summer bedding plants, for example — plants insist on following their own unsyn-chronised life cycles. From snowdrops onwards, even as one plant comes into flower, another is dying. In winter, this does not matter. People home in on Iris unguicularis, witch hazel or winter jasmine. Anything colourful is a bonus and a skeletal neighbour or a carpet of russet leaves merely emphasises its beauty. In summer, expectations are different. We want the garden to be a seamless scene of flower and leaf, not a series of plants in full glory surrounded by the browning foliage or skeletons of others that-died last month.

There are several notorious offenders which do not go grace fully. There are those that collapse suddenly and unseasonably early like Crambe maritima and mesembryanthemums or Livingstone daisies (now Dorotheanthus bellidiformis) leaving large gaps, those that produce autumnal berries in July, like Sorbus mougeottii, and buddleias whose flower spikes are dying at the bottom before the tip is fully out.

Worst of all, certainly in my garden, is the Scotch thistle or Onopordon acanthium. At its best, this is a wonderfully dramatic thistle. Sit high, with huge grey leaves and purple flower heads. At its worst, which seems to come quickly in its second year, it is a gaunt eyesore, with all its lower leaves resembling limp, dirty chamois leathers, its heads brown ; and the leaves shredded by snails.

Many trees and shrubs are as beautiful in autumn and winter as in summer: silver birches, the corkscrew hazel Corylus contorta. the dogwoods or cornus cultivars and Acer griseum, the maple with bark like polished mahogany. There are the plants which have a wonderful flush of creativity as they die down along with the year, transformed with fruit, berries,

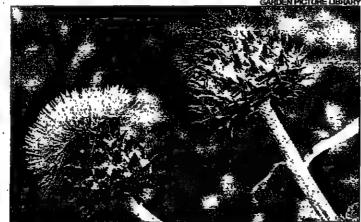


Seasonal goodwill: the ornamental grape, Vitis coignetiae, is flushed with colour in autumn, although it is dying down

seed heads and autumn colour. The huge leaves of Vitis coignetiae turn brown and apricot. Pernetty as have mauve, pink and white berries. Many clematis produce elegant green seedheads as soon as the flowers are over.

Not all plants are so obliging, however, and it is easy to be seduced by close-ups of flowers in catalogues and end up with a border full of ugly plants whose flowers are as fleeting as will-o-thewisps and which begin a slow, lingering death in middle age.

Luckily there are many plants of which this is not true. A few days after the flowers have died, you forget that you had them; yet their leaves remain a rich background to later-flowering plants. Geraniums and aquilezias can be sheared back as soon as they have flowered and they will grow a new mound of leaves. Rock roses or helian-



The Scotch thistle quickly becomes an eyesore once it has flowered

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themum varieties demand a close cut they make tidy cushions of their greenish grey leaves and remain compact for the following

year. The flowering stems of Alchemilla mollis need individual treatment, cutting each back to the base.

The soft, scalloped leaves soon

expand to fill any gaps. Lychnis coronaria in vivid magenta or white or the L. oculata group, white with a pink eye, has attractive flower stems at all angles. When the flowers are over, the stem can be cut right back and tufts of grey leaves remain all year.

plant which looks good all year is Sedum spectabile, the ice plant. It has cool green leaves and buds, filling spaces between other plants until September. These turn gradually to a good deep pink and attract butterflies, and then, at the appropriate time, change to a rich rust and can stand all winter. Every garden should have a clump.

Crocosmia 'Lucifer' does the decent thing as do most of the other crocosmias, dropping individual flowers while they are still a brilliant scarlet or shade of orange

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or yellow, on to the plants under neath and leaving behind an arching wand of beadlike seed capsules. Most salvias go gracefully, leaving behind delicately coloured bracts. S. East Friesland and S. sclarea var. rurkestanica are almost as good without flowers as with them. Knautia macedonica — a wine-red scabious - loses the tiny flowers from its pin-cushion head, leaving

a neat green round behind. Pictures of the satiny purplestriped mallow flowers of Malva sylvestris mauritiana make it seem irresistible. Unless carefully placed, however, the plant's coarse leaves, like the related hollyhock. are inclined to get rust, and are very attractive to snails. A better bet if you long for mallow flowers is Lavatera Barnsley which, in spite of problems of reversion and overpopularity, still looks fresh and new to the last.

There are several families, camellias, hebes and roses, for example, where cultivars have different habits. Some roses persist in hanging on to their petals long after they have been transformed into beige rags. Dead-heading needs to be done daily and few of us have the time for it these days. Although Vita Sackville-West made it seem romantic, it is much scratchier and less pleasant, particularly when done at dusk. Not all roses need dead-heading. Single roses and species nearly always drop their petals and then develop hips.

Camellias, 100, are variable. Many hang on to their dead flowers, disfiguring the whole bush, while others. like C. x williamsii 'Debbie', drop the complete flower so that it falls to the ground like a brilliant pink ruffled skirt. The exquisite pink-tipped white petals of the formal semidouble C. Japonica 'Desire' fall off gracefully too. The camellia crosses bred by J.C.Williams at Caerhays, like 'Donation' and 'Citation', drop their petals and the shrubs always look soigné.

The earlier many hebes flower the sooner they become a mass of crispy brown flower spikes which are reluctant to fall from the plant. On H. recurva and H. pinguifolia 'Pagei', which both have white flowers and grey leaves, these show up depressingly. Darker-leaved types, with purple flowers, like the long-flowering H. 'Mrs Winder', are much less noticeable in decay.

All plants, even majestic oaks, die eventually, but not all manage their annual decline and fall with equal grace. Luckily, many popular and widely available plants do.

#### GARDENER'S UPDATE .

JANE OWEN



BARGAIN OF MONTH THERE is still time to treat fences and trellis before winter strikes.

The first 100 readers to write to Cuprinol Sprayer Offer, Freepost (BA1058) Frome Somerset, BAH IYA will get a free pressure sprayer worth £27.99 and a El voucher for any Cuprinol product.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

THE large leaves of the unusual tender evergreen shrub Clerodendrum fragrans syn. C philippinum shows off clusters of almost rose-like, scented pinky-white flowers. Look out for the few blooms that may still be left. For a catalogue, send three firstclass postage stamps to Brian Hiley, 25 Little Woodcote, Wallington, Surrey SM5 4UV.

#### FLOWER POWER

THE London Children's Flower Society is offering daffodils to inner-city school pupils, for a small charge, which will be judged when they have flowered. Contact the society at 26 Chiselburst Road, Orpington BR6 ODG (01689 821288).

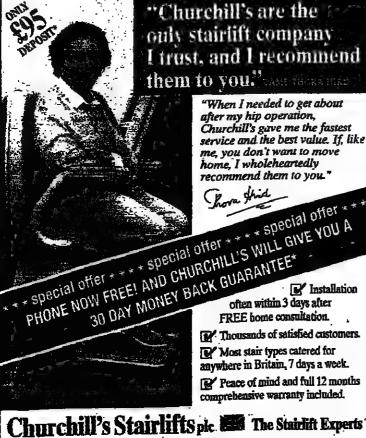


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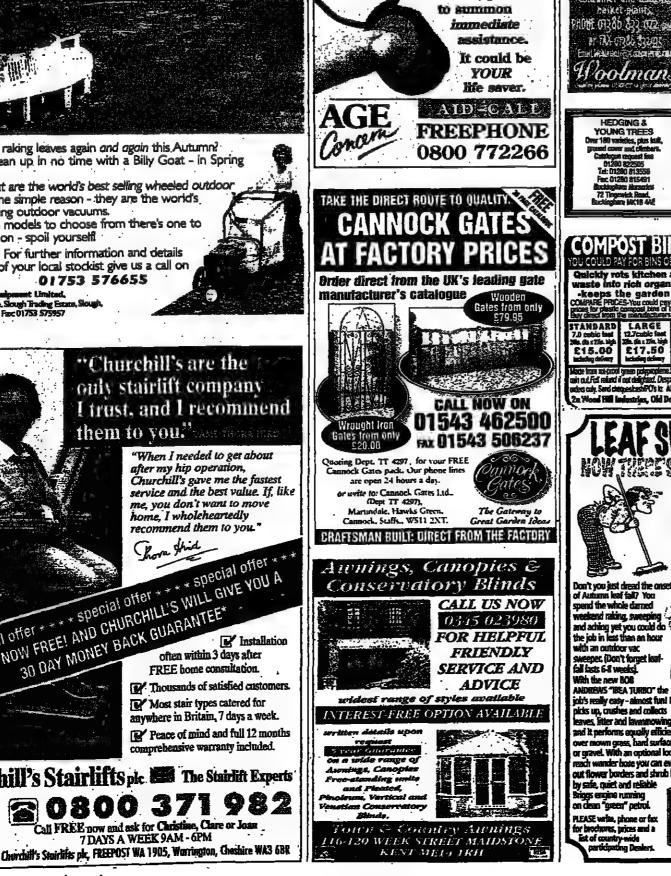
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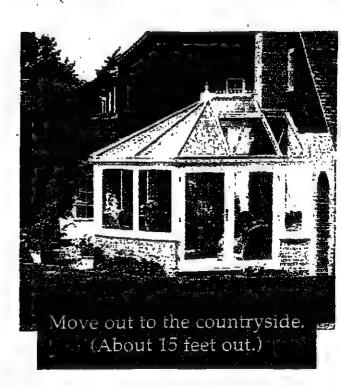




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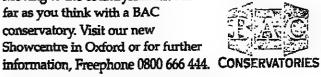


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## Moving brick by brick: Tom Rowland on a half-timbered house in the way of the Channel Tunnel link •

مكذامن الامل

## House seeks a new home

The public inquiry into building a new sta-tion at Stratford in east Lundon for the Channel Tunnel rail link started this week, and reopened the messy saga of the high-speed link right in the middle of the Tory Party conference.

The rail link has to be among the worst examples of bud public administration to be seen in Britain since the end of the Second World War. But until the track is finally opened in 2003, the latest date,

nothing is finally settled. In 1993 it was announced that just II houses would have to be demolished to make way for the third revision of the route from Folkstone to London. That went up to about 60 demolitions when the route was further revised to go through Ashlord in Kent

Among them there is one rather special building. Talbot House is a 15th-century Kentish hall house with the sweetest catalide roof and a charmingly uneven pattern of windows on the front façade. It stands in the village of Sellindge between Folkestone and Ashford.

In 1993 British Rail announced that it intended to rebuild the house on a site nearby. Then Union Railways took over the high-speed link project. Now, four years on, it s certain the house will be rebuilt but the question is exactly where. The removal and rebuilding costs have been estimated at £200,000. but on the credit side, the house will be worth a great deal more than that - especially if it is moved to a more valuable location in Kent. Sussex or Surrey.

The local authority. Shepway District Council, at one stage attempted to petition Parliament to ensure that the building remained inside its area but it allowed the action to lapse. The council did have a letter from Union Railways in May 1996 saying the com-



Geoff and Angela Hughes, tenants of Talbot House

The hall will be worth much more if it is moved to a new setting in Kent, Sussex or Surrey'

pany would try to find a suitable local site, but no piece of land has yet been bought. "British Rail was prepared

to rebuild it in the village, partly as compensation for all the disruption the line is going to cause here, but Union Railways has a different attitude and wants to make money out of it," said Tony Orsbourne, chairman of Sellindge Parish Council. He has fond memories of Talbot House because, for a time, he used to live in it.

ity use, he says, and the fear is that it could easily leave the area. Negotiations over a size in the village are bogged down, and the local authority says no planning application to re-erect elsewhere in the village has been received.

With work on the link due to start next February, time is running out, and if no suitable site is prepared in the village, Union Railways will have to find one elsewhere. It has a strong financial incentive to do just that. Moving the house to Sussex could easily add £200,000 to its final sale value.

spokesman for Union Railways said no final decision had been taken on a new site, but a number of plots were being considered. He declined to name them.

The house has seven bedrooms, two bathrooms and a magnificent inglenook fire-place about 12ft wide in the drawing room. Union Rail-ways lets the house at £485 a month to Geoff Hughes, a train driver who lives in it with his wife Angela and their three children. Early next year the family is due to move to another house owned by the railway company.

"It has been a lovely place to

"It has been a lovely place to live. We have enjoyed being here, but in winter it is a bit like sitting in a freezer," says Mrs Hughes. Mr Hughes says his only real complaint is that the kitchen is rather small for such a large house, and here were a truncated to the same same components. because it was once converted into three cottages there is no proper passage from room to

The location is hardly ideal: the house stands a few yards from the M20 on one side and the existing railway on the other. Outside, the traffic thunders by, but inside it is peaceful. The house is below the road and railway, and its thick walls, with few windows on the motorway side, keep the



Talbot House may have a charming air, but its location, hemmed between a motorway and the existing railway line, is less than ideal



Tudor House: modernised when the owners moved it

AQVING houses from place to place is expensive, but not

as difficult as you might imagine. It helps if the build-ing has a timber frame, as with Talbot House, because the securing pegs can be removed from the beams and the structure taken down

without damaging it.

Brick buildings are more troublesome, as Dennis Pearson, from Ipsden near Henley-on-Thames, discovered when he offered his house for sale at an asking price of £2,500, the only catch being that the buyer would have to

turn-of-the-century farm worker's cottage stands close-

2 bathrooms

£750,000

#### MOBILE HOWES

to a road, and Mr Pearson and his family decided to build a new house further back on their land.

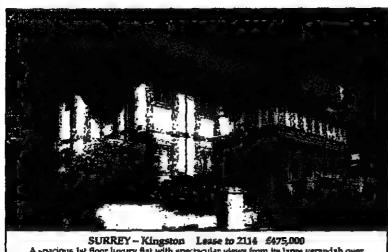
A condition of the planning permission was that the old cottage should be removed within three months of them moving in, which they did on September 22.

WE HAVE had so many time-wasters in the past two weeks that I think I may pull the house down myself," he says. "I' am fed up with people trying to work out how best to tackle the job." Tudor House now stands

in the Suffolk village of Rickinghall at the top of a sweeping gravel driveway, but it began life in an urban setting in Stowmarket, before being moved in 1958.

Like Talbot House, it was also once three cottages. When it was moved the owners were able to rebuild to modern standards, but there is enough detailing left for it to look the Tudor part. it has high ceilings — unusua in such a cottage - with carved timbers, an oak staircase, oak floors and leadedlight windows.

It is for sale at a guide price of E2I5,000 through Bedfords in Bury St Ed-munds: 01284 769 999.



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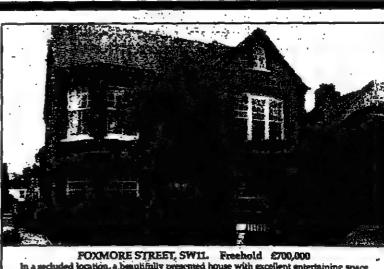
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# Where East meets West Country



Author Michael Dobbs with a few of his faithful friends

Katherine Bergen senses good

karma in the farmhouse where

Michael Dobbs invented Urguhart



The sitting room at the 17th-century farmhouse, now on the market at £550,000, is decorated with oriental artefacts. Local craftsmen made the specially designed furniture

try in the Dorset home of Michael Dobbs, the bestselling author, which is for sale for £550,000. In the vast living room

statues of Buddha stand on pieces of furniture made by Dorset craftsmen. Sitar music drifts from the CD player in Mr Dobbs's study, the room where he conceived Francis Urquhart, the Machiavellian protagonist of his political nove *House of Cards* 

The 17th-century building was a working farmhouse until 15 years ago and still has a traditional thatched roof and the two huge open fireplaces. exposed beams and flagstone floors — though now with under-floor heating - in the sitting room. The furniture, by contrast, is modern and unusual. Designed for the house and crafted by students of John Makepeace, it too is for sale if the buyer is interested.

The other half of the main reception room is used as a dining room. The ten-seater dining room table has a morbid past. "Bridport [less than two miles away] was the centre of the rope-making industry." says Mr Dobbs. "We rescued the wood for this table from the old Victorian factory where the ropes, including hangman's nooses, were made."

The thought does not put him off his food - "Capital punishment is not for me, although there are plenty of people who I would like to see strung up," he observes drily.
The desk where he writes

his political novels — the latest is nearly completed - overlooks a scene of bucolic splendour which, on the day of my visit, was enlivened by the



The sprawling five-acre grounds contain a Japanese garden, vegetable garden, an orchard and flower meadow

fragrant activity of a muckspreading tractor creeping up and down the fields.

The view is dominated by the cone of Colmers Hill, a landmark visible for miles around. Mr Dobbs mentions that the dozen Scots pines at the top of the hill grow on the site of an old plague pit.

This is said to be one of the most haunted areas of the those of a sensitive disposition. As you know, I am one of the least sensitive of people." The house, too, may be

haunted. A previous resident, who was born in the house, told Mr Dobbs that the ghost of an old monk used to come and sit on her bed. He has not seen the monk but Mrs Dobbs, a Buddhist lama, reckons any evil spirits would be turned back by the Buddhas.



Francis Urquhart, Tory party mascot, guards the study

Mr Dobbs himself keeps evil spirits at bay with the large cardboard figure of Ur-quhart which dominates his study. So effective is it that it was even used as a mascot in a

Conservative Party leadership campaign. Close inspection reveals the inscription "J.M.

for PM". The main bedroom has an extraordinary hand-made bed with great carved orbs for legs. When my wife was discussing the design, she asked for a bed with balls and this was the result," explains the author.

he adiacent bathroom has the kind of view which makes you want to stay in the Jacuzzi all day. Mr Dobbs likes to watch fox-hunting from his tub, and he points out how the beauty of the country-side owes much to hunting: "I have to thank the fox-hunting fraternity for my view - lots of copses and trees and hedgerows, the kind of countryside they like to preserve. I always shout for the fox, so that the hounds get better excercise. The hunts around here are very bad, anyway - the most they catch is a cold unless they're chasing a fox with

mange."

The oriental theme in the house extends to the gardens. The five-acre grounds were a wilderness when the Dobbs and their two children moved in five years ago.

Now there are distinct areas. There is a Japanese garden, a careful arrangement of gravel and rounded stones with a simple wooden bridge and seat looking over a pond.

There is also a walled vegetable garden, an orchard and a wild flower meadow, and Mr Dobbs has just planted 300 native broadleaf trees. Drought should never prove to be a problem here: a water diviner has detected running water beneath the grounds.

The cottage in the grounds includes a Buddhist shrine room painted in vibrant reds and velicoss, three double bedrooms and a kitchen. It could be a self-sufficient guesthouse or a useful adjunct to the main house, which has only three bedrooms (although there is planning consent for the construction of a

two-storey extension).
In addition to glorious views and a ghostly monk, the house's buyer will also inherit the family of owls in the barn. Generations have been reared there in the nesting box, and Mr Dobbs is very fond of them. He once even dismantled the small wood-burning stove in the television area off the kitchen to rescue an owlet that had fallen down the chimney during a storm.

After refreshing the confused creature in the rain, he returned it to the barn only for the family labrador to bring it

Weymouth (Abbotsbury, Bur-

back indoors. Agent: Humberts 01308 4222/5.

### HOMESWAP

RISING house prices could push up the cost of home loans, according to 12.9 per cent in the past 12 months, rising 1.7 per cent this month, and are still moving up, despite increased mortgage interest rets Demand for homes remains strong, particular

Southeast, where prices have been pushed up by a lack of supply. Despits higher prices, the shortage of properties on the market is still a em for buyers in most areas and transactions are falling.

"It is disappointing that supply has so far falled to respond to high rineless, this is likely to be temporary and an expected icrosse in properties coming onto the market will see an ever teearch at the Nationwide,

The Halifax is more cautious, its House Price Index, also puweek, said average house prices in the UK are 6.9 per cent higher than In September lest year. Gary Mersh of the Halifax said: "The market is London, the peak has passed. We expect bank base rates to rise to 7.5 per cent within the next six months".



terraced house with a 43ft rear garden, in Temperley Road. of the freehold, (Douglas & Gordon, 0181-673 0191).



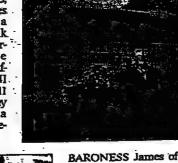
Spend a little more (£165,000) in North Yorkshire, and you could buy Lime Tree House, a detached three-bedroom, three-reception room, stone-built period cottage, with a walled garden, in East Whitton, near Leyburn, Wensleydale, (GA Town & Country 01969 623451).



in Scotland, £165,000 will buy Hilton farmhouse, a five-bedroom, three reception room, traditional farmhouse in an acre of garden, on the Angus coast, overlooking Lunan Bay and the North Sea. It includes a range of ngs and paddocks. (Savills, 01,356 622187).

### **DREAM HOMES**

RUTH Rendell CEE. crime novelist lives with her husband in a five-bedroom pink loth-century timberframed longhouse (right) in Polstead, Suf-folk. The Grade II. listed house is set in 11 acres of Stour valley woodland and has a conservatory and a detached cottage.





Holland Park OBE (P.D James), author, lives with her cat in a Georgian Regency house (left) in Holland Park, London. The house, with a basement kitchen overlooking a courtyard, houses her collection of court trials. James also has a house in Oxford.

BARON Archer of Weston-Super-Mare, author and parliamentarian, lives in a penthouse flat on top of a former 1960s office block (right) on the banks of the Thames in -Lambeth, London The flat has stunning 360 panoramic views and overlooks the Houses of Parliament.



FEW English counties remain untouched by the web of motorways that is spanning the land, but Dorset is one of them. The A303 from London to Exeter is the nearest dual carriageway.

Expect two and a half hours for a reasonable run from London to Sherbourne, and add another hour to Lyme Regis in the west. It is two hours from London Waterloo on the "fast" train service to Shaftesbury. This is not the stuff of a commuters' dreams, and the county has therefore tended to be immune to the creeping expansion of the London daily commuter belt.

This has enabled Dorset to preserve much of its sleepy charm. It has also preserved a longstanding price differential in the property market but that is tending to narrow with the emergence of a more flexible breed of buyers. "Seventy-five per cent of our

mailing list now is to people outside the area, mainly London and the Home Counties," says Julian Bunkall of Jackson-Stops & Staff's Dorchester office. Dorset's market is doing very nicely from retired people and secondhome owners but increasingly is attracting younger families and middle-aged people looking for a change of life. Some wage-earners commute weekdays a week, others run their business from home with a

# MARKET COMMENT

computer and a fax. The strong reputation of the county's schools is a bonus. North and east Dorset are

more accessible for those who have to travel regularly, and property there commands a 5-10 per cent premium. But Martin Bowen-Ashwin at Humberts in Bridport suggests this has been eroded to some extent by the improvefact that "buyers in west Dorset aren't wanting to commute: it's a different kind of

ments to the A303, and by the market". Prices have risen between 10 and 20 per cent during the past year, though most excite-

ment has been at the top end of

the market, fuelled directly by

lucrative house sales in

London. Michael de Pelet.

who acts for Knight Frank in Sherbourne, cites Buckshaw House which recently went on the market at £lm, attracted 60 viewers and four bidders, and has just sold for substantially more than the asking

THE coast itself is largely protected and it is very difficult to find property on it, except in centres such as the touristy and charmless Weymouth, or Lyme Regis, which does boast some fine period properties and considerable

'Most buyers settle for inland alternatives within striking distance of the sea. Popular areas include the Bride Valley triangle between Bridport, Dorchester and

ton Bradstock); the area around Egerton Hill (Beaminster, Powerstock), Marshwood Vale west of Bridport (Whitchurch Canoncorum. worth moving to for the name alone) and the Lyme Regis hinterland, as well as towns such as Sherbourne, Blandford Forum, Wareham and Dorchester. Small village cottages range

between £60,000 and £90,000, and are eagerly snapped up as second homes. Julian Bunkall reports "a glut of interest and at least half a dozen bidders' for a little two-bedroom cottage with views that will be auctioned on October 22. He originally quoted £75,000 for it but now expects £100,000. Larger detached cottages sell for £150,000-£200,000.

At the top of the market, larger farmhouses and small manor houses start at £250,000, though many of the old properties have had their land sold off over the years. "We're very short of prop-

erty with more than two or three acres," observes Bowen-Ashwin. "An extra acre is likely to add £10,000 to £15,000 to the house price." De Pelet agrees: "An old

rectory with a few acres at the edge of a village is like gold dust." Expect to pay £600,000 plus if you are lucky enough to stumble across one.

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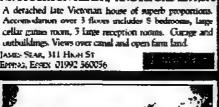
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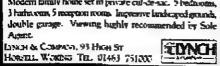
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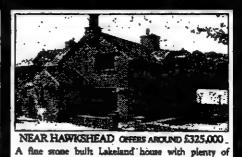
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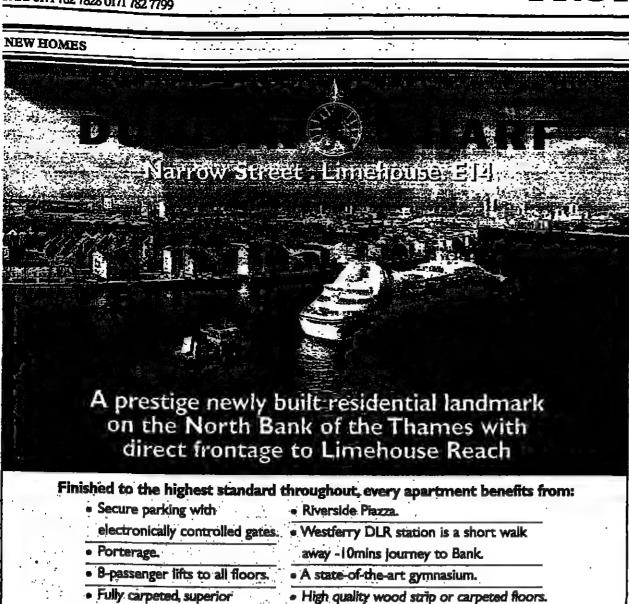
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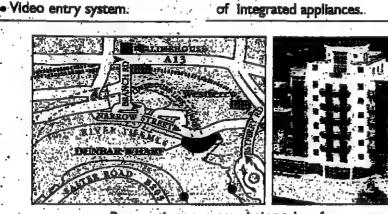
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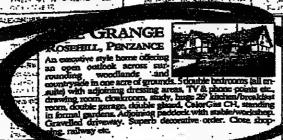
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Carol Price on the beagles saved from grisly animal experiments



# Rescued from a dog's life

eople said the place reminded them of a animal welfare workers were shocked as terrified dogs tried to curl themselves up as small as they could in the back of their kennels to hide from us. Many rescuers were in tears." Andrew Butler of the charity

Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) is regiven any pain relief before calling his recent mission. along with other rescue agencies, to remove 126 dogs from Consort, a Hereford-based aboratory heagle-breeding centre, before it closed down two weeks ago. The charities paid £250 each for the dogs to save them from being sold to the research industry. "They wouldn't give them away," says Mr Butler. "We got them Consort, which has declined cheap because they'd satur-

ated the research market." The dogs were destined for gruesome chemical toxicity tests but instead they are waiting for new homes in rescue centres nationwide. Mr Butler says: "The suffering laboratories is immense. They are injected with, or force-fed, anything from pesticides to household cleaning sub-stances for up to 40 days. Their fur may be shaved off and their skin exposed to all manner of chemicals and solvents. They suffer nausea. vomiting, convulsions and other agonies and are seidom

they are put down."
Sir Paul McCarmey and his wife Linda, long-time antivivisectionists, gave Peta £8,000 towards buying the Consort dogs. They thought it a privilege to save them from lives of misery and suffering. and afford them the chance to be viewed as something more than just test tubes with tails."

to comment on any aspect of its work, is the third beagle breeding establishment of its kind to have closed down in the past six years. Although breeding beagles can be lucrative, with dogs commanding as much as £700 each within

reserves. In the 1970s (di

Amin's soldiers began butch-

ering the teeming wildlife, a

throughout a decade of unrest.



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Some of the beagles which Paul and Linda McCartney saved from a research laboratory. They are now at rescue centres waiting for good homes

the research industry, evergrowing public protest against animal testing continues to hamper the operations of breeders and research staff.

Earlier this year, a chilling Channel documentary. Countryside Undercover, helped expose the appalling research done on the breed, Beagles were seen being brutally treated by staff at a Huntingdon laboratory, and two people were successfully prosecuted for cruelty. Around 7,944 experiments

were conducted on beagles last year. But why should they be so targeted for research as a breed? Lisa Tooley of the National Canine Defence League - whose centres have taken 60 of the Consort dogs says: "It's because they are a naturally docile, loyal and

submissive breed. They have an almost gormless willingness which makes them ripe for exploitation in this way."

uth and Alan Young, of Beagle Rescue, in Warwickshire, took eight Consort dogs for rehoming and have found their new charges "incredibly nervous. They didn't seem to know what grass was. They had never eaten from a bowl and were terrified of men." Mrs Young says: "Bit by bit

we have won their trust but we're going to have to be very careful about the homes they go to. It will have to be someone who is at home all day, has plenty of patience and understanding and no small children." Sarah Kite, who works for the British Union



Linda: gave £8,000

for the Abolition of Vivisection. has taken four beagles from research breeding centres, including a 15-month-old dog. Harvey, from Consort. She

says: "It's a myth that such dogs can't make good pets. despite being deprived of early socialisation with people. With the right care and understanding they can adapt quickly, though they need to be toilet-

Miss Kite says: "The early days with a rescued beagle are heartbreaking. I inherit a dog with no name, just an identity number and ear tattoo, watch it take its first run to freedom. and then realise what a different fate it could have had." Andrew Butler took on two

beagles from Consort — an eight-month-old bitch called Misty and a six-month-old dog called Boo. He says: "Initially they were afraid of their own shadows but are now growing in confidence every day." Mr Butler maintains that

many people still cannot grasp the reality of a laboratory dog's plight until they meet his two. "I'll be out walking Misty and Boo on a nearby heath and other dog owners will come and admire them. When I tell them they were destined to be used in chemical experiments, they :

astonished. My dogs aren't a special, unfeeling species designed to be used in such a way. They are pets just like

 Consort Beagles needing new homes can be found at: The NCDL (Evesham. Worcestershire): 01396 830613 ; Freshfields Animal Rescue (Merseyside): 0151-931 1604; Beagle Rescue (Warwickshire 01789 704885; Dorset Animal Resourt 01963 362539; Last Chance Animal Rescue (Kent)

### A VET WRITES

Fred, my seven-year-old Q boxer, developed a lump near his lower eye-tooth. It worried me (but not Fred) so we went to the vet. He called it an epulis and didn't seem to be very concerned, although he did say it could be removed. I'm not happy. Can you tell me more?

An epulis is a benign (non-malignant) overgrowth of gum tissues. Most of those I've seen have been on short-coated dogs such as boxers and bull terriers. Finty, my staffy, has a small epulis on her lower jaw around her incisors. It doesn't worry her or me. Problems arise if the epulis grows and interferes with the dog's bite. This can happen when the growth is on the upper jaw and so drops down between the teeth. Then it needs to be removed surgically. Often, dogs won't sit still for dentistry under local angesthesia, so a general anaesthetic is necessary. A tiny risk, but little more than that of an average car journey.

My neutered tom cat Blackie has suddenly developed a haematoma on his ear. It's an enormous swelling, the size of a very large grape. The vet's going to operate in a few days and assures me the ear will get back to something close to its normal shape. What is a haematoma and what causes when wife ets the

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A haematoma is a blood A haemawing is a ploce clot, and one in the ear is called a thick ear - yes, just the same as human boxer's. Blackie's ear has suffered violence, too. Probably because he's been shaking his head or scratching his ear because there's some trouble in his ear canal. The operation consists of removing the blood clot and then keeping the two sides of the skin of the ear close together - by stitches or compression bandages there's no space left for another clot to form. It's important to find, and treat, the cause of the irritation so Blackie stops scratching. He may be left with a slightly wrinkled ear but if a haematoma is left to resolve by itself the ear will be severely deformed.

JAMES-ALLCOCK

### he career paths leading from the Royal Veterinary College in London on graduation day are clearly signposted: they connect to a lifetime spent ministering to cats and dogs and hunsters, to cows and pigs and horses. Gladys Kalema took an

unmarked route that bypassed all the usual applications of a ver's skills, into a high-octane job which few graduates will see so early in their working lives. Last year, at the age of 26, she became the Ugandan Wildlife Service's chief (and only) yet, the first person to fill the post for 30 years and easily the youngest.

Her job specification is daunting. Uganda's wildlife



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If you are interested in adopting Saxon, contact the Ealing branch of the Cats Protection League (0181-752 0793).

### Gladys sticks her neck out service has a staff of wardens, but very little to ward, in ten national parks and ten game

The future of several animal species in Uganda is in mous pleasure, the immithe hands of one woman - a recent London graduate

department so underpractice that continued resourced that, at first, she had to borrow her mother's car to get around. She decides which Rhinos became extinct there in the 1980s; elephants are animals to move, and must be down to 3,000 from 60,000. on hand to administer tranquillisers and to monitor their

and there are just 100 giraffes left, many of them sick. Kalema's task is to restock realth in transit. Kalema was two years old these "charismatic" species when Amin killed her father, a and protect the star animals, minister in the previous govnotably mountain gorillas, in ernment. Her mother, who later became an MP in the Ugandan parliament, sent her to school in Scotland and then to veterinary college. Her ambition was always to work

with wild animals. The job came to Kalema almost by default. She sent the report on her college project on parasites in gorilla dung to the director of Uganda's national parks. "I told him I thought they needed a vet and I was the right person. They advertised but I was the only one with the relevant experience."

If Kalema did nothing else, caring for half the world's surviving population of 650 mountain gorillas would alone justify her wages. The world's

television viewers discovered this massive primate when one sat delicately on Sir David Attenborough in the series Life on Earth in 1973. Since then the gorillas, whose territory overlaps the neighbouring Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, formerly Zaire, have suffered grievously from war and poaching.

Tow. for \$150 (£95) each tourists can be led through the forest and come within five metres of a gorilla - no closer, for fear of transmitting diseases such as measles and fiv. The mountain gorilla is perhaps the best example in the world of a rare wild animal ascribed an economic value in its natural habitat and given full state protection. Kalema's job is to

keep this national asset alive. The gorillas make a small but viable population. Else-where in the national parks the usual animals are either not there or are present in trivial numbers which are dangerously out of balance with the creatures around them. If Uganda stays calm, wildlife may, in time, return by itself. But Kalema believes the country cannot wait. Animals must be brought in to boost tourism and provide funds to expand her work.

Kalema has begun the difficult and expensive business of translocation. It has not been attempted in Uganda since some white rhinos were moved in 1960. She took a sixweek crash course with the Kenya Wildlife Service and practised firing tranquillising darts in her back garden each dart costs £25 and there is only one chance to hit the

One park had only seven female. "If the female died and the others fell ill, that would have been the end of the giraffes in the entire park," she says. In order to try to augment the depleted population. she went to Kenya and, with the aid of their wildlife services, brought back three young females. To her enorresident population.

Later this year she plans to move crop-damaging elephants away from farmland and into a reserve. Kalema predicts it will take

15 years for Ugandan wildlife to recover in the parks, if translocation continues. But her budget is desperately small for the immense task she faces. It can take two days from Kampala by poor roads to reach the most distant reserve. The rangers are less well equipped than the poachers. She needs money for drugs and equipment and to train more vets.

And yet, despite these diffi-culties, she feels more useful and fulfilled than she would be anywhere else. "At this moment my friends from vet school are reading the best way to treat a cat or dog, and here am I planning to translocate elephants. In my small way I am part of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of my country."

GARETH HUW DAVIES Gladys, the African Vet is on BBCI on Wednesday at 7pm



Gladys Kalema in the Ugandan bush with two "patients"

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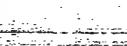
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WEEKEND · SATURDAY OCTOBER II 1997

When sleepless and shell-shocked new mothers wonder if they will survive the battle, it's time to wheel out the secret weapon

h, they are a late-blooming lot. my girlfriends. Well into their thirties, most of them, and only just now vaguely beginning to think about children. This is not because of any lack of encouragement from me. "Hadn't you better get a move on?" I find myself saying with tiresome frequency, reminding them that I myself was referred to, by the adolescent in a white coat presiding

over the Scutari Antenatal Clinic of King's College Hospital, as an elderly prima gravida" - and that was nearly seven years ago. (I took considerable umbrage at this and advised him, with all the dignity I could muster when lying like an upturned beetle on a length of sludge-green kitchen roll, with my petticoats over my head and my under-pinnings around my ankles, to stow it.)

At long last they seem to be getting around to it, and not a moment too soon. It has been perfectly horrible, I can tell you, being the only mama among a clutch of nippy singletons, and elegant. Childless Marrieds, who can't understand why one has reneged so pathetically on all that bullish pre-birth talk of how one is Not Going To Let It Interfere With One's Lifestyle. But why can't you come to

# Put the gun in the Tidy (

his pyjamas and bring him with you.

Once or twice, growing weary of explaining exactly why this is such a rotten idea, I have done just that — only to find myself being given the evil eye by the emire dinner table as I sit, marmuring soothing nursery rhymes under my breath and scattering forkfuls of boned quail with apricot and wild rice stuffing over the drooping child in my lap who has, as I could have told my hosts in advance, firmly declined to settle down quietly for the night in an unfamiliar bed, within earshot of the jolly shrieks of the grown-ups having a far more interesting time downstairs.

By some miracle of mismanagement, the two friends who did get pregnant at the same time as me both decided to flee the country and settle in France. This, it is true; provided the material for an interesting comparative study of English and French approaches to gestation and childcare. The French, for example,

cheerfully sink gal-lons of health-giving Burgundy while enceinte (so good for le morale), but regard the domestic cat, that harbinger of la torolasmose, as though

were a giant, dead-

ly bacillus The Brits, on the other hand, banish their husbands to the boxtroom in order to curl up with Pusskin, going to be so badly

hurt by the arrival of the Little Stranger, while remaining convinced that the ingestion of even one glass of sweet sherry during pregnancy will result in their giving birth to something with four sets of hind legs and a thick coat of ginger fur. The Frogs, furthermore, always so keen to improve on nature (just look at

LIFE AND SOUL



the way French-On The Case of their hairdos) horrify the tender-hearted British (who secretly think this kind of interventionism rather common) with their briskly gung-ho approach to circumcision. Still, interesting as it has been to chart all these cultural differences, it is

their gardens, and

really no substitute for having someone with whom to share the little joys and sorrows of motherhood: the rash that is almost certainly meningitis; the alarming impulse to go around and harm Penelope Leach that grows in intensity each time you refer to her insufferably smug childcare bible; the astonishing, brutal exhaustion of the Infant Years (if it was the British Government doing it to the IRA, there would be cases in the European Court of Human Rights. As it is, all that stands between you and the total obliteration of your personality is your little phial of

Touche Eclat). But now, at last, my moment has come. Grey-skinned and punchy from lack of sleep, the new mummies of my acquaintance say hollowly that they don't know how I did it. Oh, I say, you know, you just hack on and hope for the best. What I am not admitting to (since even having sat next to a girl during finals is no guarantee that she won't try and pinch your nanny) is the Linda Factor.

inda, despite the fact that she is (just!) young enough to be my daughter, could give Mary Poppins lessons in how to impose your will upon a small child. A friend whose business it is to know about these things once remarked, on hearing her account

of Alexander's movements during the day, that he wished he could have her as a hostage negotiator. "Don't be silly," I said, "she's a teenager." But actually, on reflection, I could see what he meant. There you'd be on Day Three of your siege, ideology starting to wobble a bit, all hot and sticky in your scratchy black balaclava, wondering whether you might shoot the silly bat in the Chanel suit who keeps screaming in that infuriating fashion, and then suddenly, from outside, comes the calm voice of Linda through the megaphone, saying, "That's enough of that game now. Just put the Uzi down in the Tidy Corner and then we can have chicken nuggets for tea. And perhaps a Mr Man fairy cake for afters. Yes, I expect you can have Mr Psychotic,

if that is the one you want . . . " The only trouble is, she makes it all seem so seductively easy that I forget what hell it was before she came. When I was little. I always planned to have six children. Now, gazing into the face of my friend's newborn son, with his ancient, deep-blue gaze, his lashless eyes, and his gummy overbite, like that of a 100-yearold Galapagos tortoise, all I can think is that I had better get a move on.

# When my wife gets the red card



When it's Italy v England, and she's Italian, football comes home with a

vengeance, Simon Crompton writes

even years of marriage, and not once had England faced Italy in anger - until this year. I only hope our marriage can withstand its first real test.

During these years, my talian wife Mirella and her family have ground out of me the ingrained England supporter's prejudices against Italian football. In the old days, when you talked to your friends about cynical Italian defending or complained about Commental cry-babies. there were grunts of agreement all round.

Now, in our cross-cultural household, such comments are greeted with the same look

as when I pronounced tagliatelle with a "g". On my wedding day, I was left waiting at the altar of the Italian church for ten sweaty minutes, while outside my wife-to-be and our priest relived the World Cup semi-final defeat of Italy by the accursed Argentinians

In retrospect, the message at the pre-marital guidance ses-sions with Father Roberto could not have been clearer. The reverential tones in which Franco Baresi's name was proferred, the verbal replays of Toto Schillaci's unforgettasequence of goals and the odes to his beautiful frog eyes. And, most telling of all, the knowing looks that passed the priest and my Poor Simon. He doesn't understand. He's

But I understand more with each passing year, and with each Italy game, Father Roberto's cross-football culture counselling has made increasing sense. I, too, have felt the seductive touch of the liberating, emotional, painful, glorious, frustrating, illogical, joyous experience of supporting the Italian football team.

I used to watch England play on television in London pubs — an experience fuelled by testosterone, abusive chanting, fist-clenching and large quantities of Carling Black Label But England, God bless em, failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup, and when Mirella dragged me to Bar-Italia in London's Soho to watch Italy play, it didn't feel too treacherous to temporarily

transfer my allegiance.
First, I had to learn some of the rules that bind the boisterous community of Italian supporters. I learnt to shake my head ruefully at the mention of the 1990 World Cup semifinal, and never to make a defence of any description of former coach Arrigo Sacchi.

'Mirella was sympathetic after England's defeat, and I tried not to be too embittered. But I am not sure things will be so civilised this time — especially if Italy fails to win'

Do not ever mention the words Diego Maradona: not if you value your football stamp collection. And never suggest an Italy supporter is perhaps a teensy weensy bit inconsistent in his or her opinions. That inconsistency is one of

the liberating and enduring glories of supporting Italy. No matter that last week you said Cesare Maldini had brought Italian football back to the flowing expressionism that Azeglio Vicini had given it.

This week he betrayed you by not letting the team give vent to their natural talents: the man is the son of a donkey.

So what if last season Piertuigi Casiraghi was a stu-pid peasant who hadn't a clue what to do with the ball once he had it? Now that he faces you in triumph after scoring, he is a god. And no Sardinian is a true Italian. With the exception of Zola, of course.

When England and Italy

groups for the 1996 European Championships, 1 breathed a sigh of relief and agreed to go to all the Italy group games with Mirella and her brother. I sat at the first match against Russia soaking up the Continental atmosphere, rubbing shoulders with some serious Armani, and mentally sniffing the cappuccino as the

fans in the latest Italian team

strip took their seats. Then their voices filtered through: a thick Blackburn accent uttered "I can't believe he's got Ravanelli on the bench": a Scouser moan of "Just our luck to be in the frigging group of death". There were thousands of them: adopted Italians just

And I was up there with them, screaming at the ref, gesticulating my pain, be-mouning our misses with my



I am, of course, delighted that marriage to an Italian has re-educated my English palate to the delights of gnocchi, polenta, tiramisù and the exuberance of Italian football. But when you are faced with the choice, sometimes you just have to admit you are a meat and two veg man.



Introduced to the delights of Italian culture by wife Mirella, Simon Crompton has had few qualms about cheering on their national football team. That all changes tonight

all I was worth "It-al-ia.

And, after the final group

ame against Germany, when

Paolo Maldini applauded the

crowd at the end of Italy's

brave but vain attempt to stay in the competition, I think !

was actually crying. I didn't

know what was happening to

me, but I knew Father Roberto

Cup finals. Cruel fate decreed

that the first leg should be on

Mirella's birthday, so her

present was tickets to the game

at Wembley. Unwisely, I de-

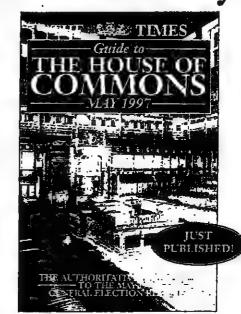
cided to support England at her side, among the tiny but

ut now . . . well, it had

to happen. England against Italy for a place in the World

would be proud.

### Who won what and why?



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A game of two halves. England go close and jubilant fans on the terraces are over the moon while, sick as parrots, the Italians hang their heads

### WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

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# Wallowing in a sea of words

### OCTOBER 17-19

Nelson's early battles. The early romanties. The symphonies of Anton Bruckner, The masks of Apollo; The scien-tific revolution: At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price per course £117, which includes tuition and full-board

British landscape painting;
Discovering fungi: Dancing for fitness and fun; Calligraphy for greetings cards. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichenter, Suggest 102313, 670202 ester, Sussex (01243 670392). Prices from £142 residential or £92 non-residential.

Cider and winetasting weekend on the Weish Border: With Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Price, allinclusive of accommodation and tastings, £195.

Marine and coastal land-scapes; the Jacobite challenge: At Belstead House College, Ipswich (01473 686321). Prices per course from £75-£95, inclusive. Picture framing, Machine

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ire (0151-336 5172). Prices from help of willing hands. Week-£98, inclusive. help of willing hands. Week-end rates, full board and

Hedgelaying weekend: Mosses: Land and freshwater molluses: Six Suffolk villages: At the Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). Prices from £79-£107, inclusive.

Piano workshop: Painting miniatures; Walking sticks: At Highham Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake. Cockermouth. Cumbria (017687 76276). Price per course £112, inclusive.

Intermediate French: Mixed media painting. Countryside walks and talks: Italian op-era: At the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, South Wales (01873 855221). Prices from £88-£98 inclusive.

Garden painting at a classic English house: King Arthur; Hypnosis and relaxation: At Knuston Hall, Irchester, Northamptonshire (01933 312104). Price per course from £98, inclusive

Conservation weekends: With the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Wallingford, Oxon (01491 839766). A wide variety of conservation projects need the

> ional Maritime Museum 0181-312 6678). Magical musical weekend: At robury House, on the River Vye near Hereford (01981 500229). A special concert with guest soloist Kevin Tillet, for-merly of D'Oyly Carte. Halfboard accommodation for two nights and evening concert

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London, with writers Alexan-

der Kent and Hammond In-

nes, yachtsmen Robin Knox-

Johnson and Tony Bullimore.

There is also a book fair. Entrance to sessions from £4-£8. Full details from the Nat-

Landscape photography: beginners: At Alston Hall Residential College, Preston, Lancashire (01772 784661). Prices, all inclusive, from £75. Walking in the Constable rountry. Fungi weekend: Painting with pastels: Im-prove your sketching and drawing: At the Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). Prices from £72-£102.



Robin Knox-Johnson will be at Seawords, a celebration of the sea in literature, at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, on October 24

inclusive of mition and fullboard accommodation. Short Story Writing Silk

Painting for Beginners: Tai Chi. All this weekend at Higham Hall. Cockermouth, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cumbria (0(7687 .76276). From £112, Battlefields of the Welsk Marches: Trees and shrubs

who was grandma's grandma? At the Field Studies Centre, Preston Montford, Shrewsbury (01743 850380). Prices from £75-£99. Positive ageing. Recorder en-sembles: Painting with acrylics, at the Belstead House Centre, Ipswich, Suffolk (01473 686321). From £75-£95.

in autumn: Family history.

Painting antumn leaves and berries; Medieval art and architecture; Touching stillness, at the Hill Residential College, Abergaverny, South Wales (01495 333777). From £88, full board and tuition tocluded.

tion; Folk Weekend; Canal Boat Art: Wood carving. Four courses this weekend at Knuston Hall, Irchester, Northants: 01933 312104. Prices from £89 inclusive. Stockmarket and investment for beginners: Map and apass work for Improvers: Chinese brush painting: At the Old Rectory. Fittleworth, Sussex (01798 865306). Prices from £114 residential, E90 non-residential.

DCT 31-NDV 2 Family history: An advanced course for those with some knowledge of genealogical re-search. At Urchfont Manor. Devices. Wiltshire (01380)

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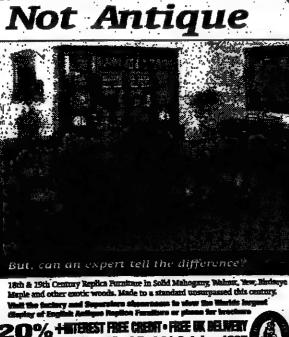
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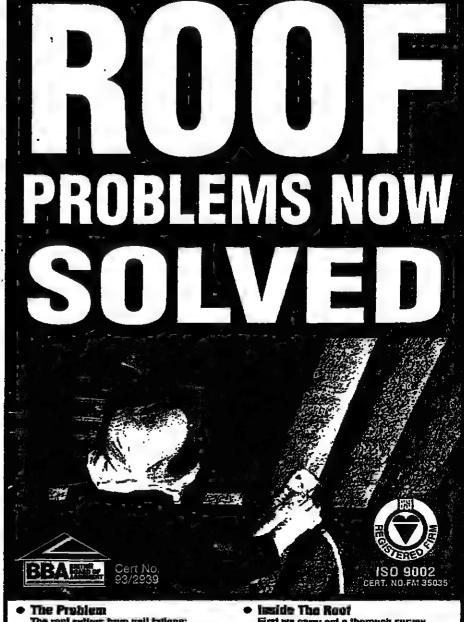
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# Look up to God



Ruth Gledhill goes to synagogue to celebrate the Jewish New Year

THIS was the longest ser-vice in the Jewish prayer book and was to last for more than four hours. Rabbi Shlomo Levin heads a youthful orthodox congregation which is so successful that half the members had to meet in a hotel nearby because the syna-

gogue could not hold them. The occasion was Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, a festival lasting two days, which with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, ten days later, is one of the most important Jewish festivals. Jews believe their behaviour on this day determines whether or not God will inscribe them in the Book of Life.

The Torah, or Scrolls of the Law, from the first five books of the Bible, were taken out of the intricately decorated ark, processed around the floor of the synagogue, and five men took it in turns to read the portion for the day from Genesis 22. This dealt with Abraham's temptation by God to sacrifice his son Isaac.

Rabbi Levin began his sermon with a question:
"Do we still need religion?" He conceded that such a full synagogue suggested some people might still need it. He noted that primitive societies were invariably religious, even if this was in a pantheistic or superstitious form. "In our society, as we become more sophisticated and more liberated, we have begun to drop many of the trappings of organised religion," he said. Most people no longer considered themselves religious, he added, evincing puzzlement that anyone still came to shul or synagogue. He then



\* A five-star guide \* RABBI: Shlomo Levin ARCHITECTURE: Ugly outside, beautiful in \*\*\* SERMON: Ouestion and MUSIC: Haunting and

evocative psalm LITURGY: A blessing, then kingship, remembrance and redemption. \*\*\*\*

invited us to tell him why we were there. The women. seated in the gallery in accordance with Jewish tradition, were included. "Connection," said one member, to explain his presence. But what are you connecting with?" demanded the rabbi. "The past," replied the congregant. The sermon," said another. "Tradition," said one. "Family," said another. "We come here searching for something and in the hope of finding an answer" said

finding an answer," said one man. "It's an insurance policy," said another, provoking laughter. "To question," a woman said. The rabbi was concerned that religion was becoming too easy, too banal. "The human being, of all creatures, stands on its hind legs," he said. "We alone are

urged us not to become trapped into looking down into the humdrum existence of our secular lives, but to take time to look up to God. South Hampstead District



Rabbi Levin blows the traditional New Year Shofar

# New battle for the macho man

rank Collins, a former SAS soldier who became a Church of England minister, can relax today at home in Hereford with his wife and four children after touring the country to promote his first book. For a formight he has fielded the same questions from reporters. Could you kill someone now that you are a Christian? How did you feel when you stormed into the Iranian embassy in London in

1980? What is the SAS really like? A representative from a combat magazine wanted to know whether Collins could kill a man with a single blow. A national newspaper reporter asked if he was surprised by the public's insatiable appetite for books by former SAS men, all writing in the same macho, military jargon about the same missions in Northern Ireland, the Falklands and the Gulf War, with a few other adventures, in the jungles of Central America or on the plains of Africa, thrown in.

We are sitting in his home in Here-ford, which he is renovating himself, using the DIY skills that he picked up



Frank Collins, now a minister at Hereford, home base of the SAS

may take root.

Why does a former

حكذامن الإصل

SAS man swap

his stun grenades

for a Bible?

Simon Freeman

investigates

from his father, a carpenter and a hard-drinking Geordie who drifted into alcoholism and who never discussed religion. Collins is not a muscle-bound giant; like many SAS men he is quiet and small, though he has the tight skin of a man who eats well and exercises regularly, and looks younger than his 40 years. But his eyes pierce you, as if he is calculating whether he could "slot" you or, perhaps, whether you are really interested in hearing why Jesus was "a radical and a hard man".

It is not easy to persuade him to secuss his faith or his career route as a minister, perhaps because he worries that he will be too blunt and become an unemployable celebrity cleric with a strange and violent past. But, once he realises that you are genuinely curious, he starts talking.

He thinks he is too young, energe and impatient to become a traditional vicar, nestling down comfortably in a middle-class parish. That might happen, he concedes, when he is in his mid-fifties, but today he is drawn to angry young people in the inner cities; on the other hand, that would mean moving from Hereford, which he does not want to do.

He dreams of finding a job where he could combine his SAS skills and his new ones as a minister and counsellor. Perhaps, he thinks, he could become the spiritual equivalent of an aid worker, travelling to wars. famines and disasters, providing



Collins, second from left: "Minutes after this picture was taken, we were biting the heads off snakes for food

comfort to those who are bringing relief and who are often emotionally devastated by what they see, and simply being there for the people who are suffering, whatever their religion. This would involve travel to exciting and unpleasant places, which is what he still needs.

Frank Collins is much-changed from the young SAS trooper who crashed into the Iranian embassy in London almost 20 years ago, but he has to find challenges to test and sustain his faith. He says he was reluctant to leave the Army, where he had just started "the best job in the world" as chaplain to 5 Para, but he felt his presence would be embarrassing, because the Ministry of Defence is trying to stem the flood of books about the special forces. His own book was cleared for publication and could not have damaged his beloved SAS. He is a romantic, who believes SAS men are modern knights. ("I see them as crusaders, for God and valour, fighting for what is right.") He is addicted to the physical and the dangerous; he enjoys showing younger men that he can still run for ten. miles with a 40lb pack strapped on his back, he climbs mountains and sky dives, and misses the glorious discomfort of Arctic warfare training.

he first part of his book is a dramatic account of how, as a working-class lad, he dis-covered that he had the physical and mental strength to qualify for membership of the most famous military unit in the world. Then he describes how his new-found faith frightened and puzzled him and alienated him from his family and

He left the SAS in 1985 and worked as a bodyguard — what he calls his "wilderness years" — before accept-

After studying at a theology college near London he returned to Hereford to become a curate and then rejoined the Army as a chaplain. He accepts that his status as a former SAS man helped in the Army because it gave him credibility. But it does not make any difference now. He works with teenagers in Birmingham and they do not care that he was in the SAS. They think that they could do it if they wanted to and anyway, the Army is part of another world to

them." he says. Collins hopes his book will sell well, but will be satisfied, he says, if it touches just one young man (or woman) by showing that musculinity and the SAS is the ultimate expression of that — and Christianity are really not incompatible.

■ Frank Collins's book SAS Hero to Spiritual Walylor: Baptism of Fire, the stonishing true story of a man of God, is published by Doubleday at £16.99.

### We need to find time and mood of reflection is approprisuch a mood, it is difficult to maintain space for reflection it amid the daily rush and noise of our lives. Somehow, we need to keep a region of ourselves in quiet calm, tending it as a patch in which wisdom in his notebook of 1939, Wittgen-

stein wrote: "My originality . . . is an shire, USA, and last month I

originality belonging to the soil, seeking the spiritual life sometimes neglect this possibility. They are overactive in the belief that activity may produce some wonderful effect. Instead, it may be that their part is to listen, not to speak: to receive, not to give; to be the soil, not the seed.

In the spiritual domain, as in the rest of life, there is a division of labour: it is a mark of practical wisdom to know that this is so and to discern one's own proper part in any

co-operative endeavour. These thoughts are prompted by recent experiences of religious communities. Twice this year I have

stayed in the Jesuit residence **JOHN** in Louvain in Belgium. A continent and 4,500 miles HALDANE apart, and representing dif-

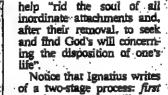
ferent forms of religious life and spiritual traditions, these communities nonetheless have much more in common with one another than each has with its secular surroundings.

The Benedictines are the oldest of the existing groups of monks and nuns, dating from the early 6th century, during which the former hermit Benedict built the monastery



of Monte Cassino and established his precepts for the spiritual life, the "rule of St Benedict".

In founding the Jesuits 1,000 years later, St Ignatius of Loyola drew upon aspects of Benedictine spirituality and community order: in his own work, Spiritual Exercises, he added methods of meditation designed to



detachment; then discernment. This is partly caution against rushing, trying to do too much, too quickly; and partly a .

reminder of the division of labour. The initial stage of detachment depends for its success on our own efforts: but in the second, while we are to seek, it is not within our power to find the treasure: God has to reveal his will. Yet from the words of the

will not deny us: "ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find it; knock and it will be opened to you"

Sitting in the warm, dark chapel of the Louvain Jesuits, one begins to feel the burden of "inordinate attachments". Likewise, the experience of the talk-free communal meals in the similarly unadorned dining hall of St Anselm's bring home the fact that speech is often an occasion for deceit,

In years past, those in later life who had the means, the opportunity and the inclination sometimes left the world to end their days in religious communities. Less demandingly, one might take an annual retreat in one of the many religious houses that open their doors to laity. Finally, and more practically, one might set aside some time and space for silent reflection and begin the work of detachment in preparation for discernment, recalling the words "Be still and know that i am God".

it is an expension

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### Gospel we may be confident that God Church services tomorrow

Twentieth Sunday after Trinity.
BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45
Cymun Bendigaid; II Ch Euch, Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd): 3.15 Ch E; 5 Gosber. BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; II S Euch. Come let's rejoice (Amner); 3.30 Ch E, Thou witt keep him (Wesley).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL V MP. 9.15 HC: Il Judges Service, I was glad (Parry), Rev R H A Eames: 4 Ch Euch. Mass for four voices (Bytd); 5 EP.
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 Ch M: 10.30 Euch, Jackson in G, Canon

Galilee 4 Ch E. CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL 8 HC 9.30. Il S Euch, Tantum ergo (Duruflé); 3.15 Festival E, Responses (Walsh); 6.30 Ser-CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC:

10.30 S Euch. Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Archdeacon D Turnbull; 3 EP. CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL 8 HC 9.30 Euch, Canon D Knight; II.15 Justice Service; 6 Ch E, Bairstow in D. CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: in Euch, Canon T Dennis; II M, Te Deum in F (Dyson); 3.30 E; 6.30 ES.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Ireland in F: II S Euch, Ave verum (Philips), Canon W Pratt; 3:30 E. CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 S Euch. Canon Ward, o E. Collegium Regale (Howells).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL Dublin: 11 S Euch; 3.30 Ch E. Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré). COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C: 10.30 Euch, Mr J Filochowski; 3 German

Lutherans; 5 Ch E. Responses (Rose). DERBY CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 10.45 S Euch, Darke in E. Canon G Marshall; 6 Ch E. Stanford in B flat.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in C: 11.15 HC. Missa Brevis (Leighton), Canon M Perry; 3.30 E.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd); 3.45 E. Rubbra in A flat. EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S

Euch, Missa brevis (Caesar), Canon P Price; 11.15 M. Responses (Rose): 3 E: 6.30 ES: 7 Harvest Thanksgiving. GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 10.15 Euch, Rev J Hubbard-Jones: 12.15 HC: 3 County Harvest Thanksgiving, Benedicite in B flat (Sumsion).

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 10 Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells): 11.30 M: 3.30 E. Rev R North. LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M: 10.30 Euch, Leighton in D. Rev A Race; 4 Ch E, Stanford in B flat.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Thou visitest the earth (Greene);

LIANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 8. 9 Euch: II S Euch, Darke in A minor. 12.15 Euch; 3.30 Ch E; 6.30 E, The Dean. NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Messe Solenelle (Langlais), The Archdeacon of Northumberland; 3.30 E. Dyson in D.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Let all the world (Vaughan Williams), 6.30 E. Go forth into the world in peace (Rutter). NORWICH CATHEDRAL 8 HC; 9.15 C; 10.30 Norfolk & Norwich Festival Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart): 3.30 E. Canon M Makower, 6.30 Healing Service. PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 930

M. Stanford in B flat; 10.30 Euch, The Bishop of Brixworth; 3.30 E. PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 C: 11 S Euch, Missa Eliensis (Willst: 6.30 E. Murrill in E. Ven G Knowles. RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.30 Euch: 11.30 M. Britten in C; 12.30 Euch; 5.30 E,

Kelly in C. Rev R Quick. ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 M. Let all the world (Vaughan Williams); 10.30 S Euch, Canon D Winter; 3.15 E. SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Canon J Davies; 3 Festal E, Canon J

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch: Il Ch Euch, Messe Basse (Faure); 3 Ch E, Purcell in G minor, Canon H Cunliffe. SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L: 8 HC: 9.30 C: II S Euch. Collegium Regale (Howellst. Archdeacun of Newark: 3.15 E,

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Ubi cartias et amor (Durufié), Canon M Boxall: 6 E. Purcell in G minor. WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15

C, Jesu the very thought (Lang), Canon R Gage: 11 Solemn Euch; 6.30 E. WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa papae Marcelli (Palestrina); 11.30 M, Stanford in C; 3 E, Rev E M Cross. WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 10 M; 11 S Euch, Rev V Hunt; II.IS Euch; 3 E; 5.45 Organ Recital: 6.30 ES, Rev J Goodail. WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 10.30 Solemn Mass, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydni: 12 Mass; 2.45 Organ Recital; 3.30 Vespers and Benediction; 5.30, 7 Mass. WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M. Prevent us O Lord (Byrd), Canon C Stewart; 11.15 S Euch: 3.30 E. Wood in E.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8,45 HC; 10 S Euch.

Canterbury Service (Moore); 11:30 M. Turn

back O man (Holst). Rev C Campling: 4 E.

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch, 11 Solemn Euch: 6.30 E, Christ be with you (Rose). ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC;

II Ch M, Blessed city (Bairstow), Rev K Goulstone, 3.30 EP. ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30. Euch: 11.15 Ch M, Stanford in C, Canon Morgan: 6 Ch E. Sonata in G (Elgar). ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL Cork: 8 Euch; Il.15 S Euch, Canon P Rhys Thomas; 7 Ch E, Fourth Service (Batten). ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 Euch, Darke in E minor, Canon J Millard; 3.30 Ch E. Stanford in C.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL Old rdeen: II MS: Benedicite (Sumsion): 6 ES, Rev R Frazer. ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 M. Hewson in E. Rev H C

Mills; 3.15 Ch E. ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL 8 HC 8.45 M; II S Euch, Mass (Stavinsky): 3.15 E, Rubbra in A flat, Venerable G Cassidy; 6.30 Service for Diocesan Week of Prayer. RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHE-

DRAL SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony. ALL SAINTS. WI: 8 LM: 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Spatzenmesse (Mozart); 5.15 LM; 6 E. ALL SOULS, WI: 9.30, 11.30 HC, Mr D Turner: 6.30 ES. Rev R Bewes. THE ASSUMPTION. WI: II HC, MISSA

l'hora passa (Viadana).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M. Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC; 6 E. Rev D Bean. CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOT-LAND. WC2: 11.15, Rev S Hood; 6.30 ES. FARM STREET, WI: 8, 930 LM; II HM; 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM. HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9

HC: II MS: 5, 7.30 informal Service, Rev N THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, Ave

Maria (Victoria); 12.30 Mass, 3.30 V & B; 4.30, 7 Mass. ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W& II Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian. WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2-9.45 HC, Rev Dr L Griffiths: II Harvest Festival WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 HC. Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30

ES. Mr B Scorer. ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran). EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev P D Schmiege: 6.30 EP at St Paul's Cathedral for Bridges of Prayer Week'.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT. ECI: 9 HC: 11 M. Canterbury Te Deum (Howells): 6.30 Ch Euch, Missa brevis (Kodaly). The Rector.

● The writer is Professor of Philo-sophy at the University of St Andrews

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch M & Euch,

Purcell in C, Canon J Oates. ST CLEMENT DANES: II Ch M, O Where shall wisdom be found (Boyce), Rev R Pentland; 12.30 HC. ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 1| S Mass, Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina).

ST GEORGE'S, WI: 8.30 HC; II S Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn). ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; II S Euch, Rev S Cathie: 5.45 EP. ST JOHN'S, ELS: 11 Family Service, Voluntary on Old 100th (Purcell), Rev M Okello; 6.30 HC, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 MP & HC, Salvator mundi (Blow), Rev D Bean; 6,30 E, Rev C Kevill-Davies. ST MARK'S, NWI: 8 HC; 9.45 C; II S Euch, Missa Brevis in B flat (Mozart), Rev J

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors to London Service, Rev C Herbert; 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch, Rev F Gelli: 11.15 Ch M. Rev P Stubbs; 12.30 HC: 6.30 E, Mrs P Haines. ST MARY'S, SWI: 9, 10, LM; II HM, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Fr N Mercer; 6 Solemn E & Benediction; 7 LM. ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill:

8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Be still my soul (Whitlock), Rev R Mitchell; 6 EP. ST MARYLEBONE WI: 8 HC: II Ch Euch. Missa Sancti Nicolai (Mussorgsky). Prof J Caldwell.

ST PAUL'S, SWI: 8, 9 HC; II Solemn Euch, O bone Jesu (Radcliffe), Rev N Dawson

ST PETER'S, SWI: 8 15 HC; 10 Euch; 11 S Euch, Os Justi (Bruckner), Fr D B Tillyer. CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of Landon: 9.15 HC; II M, Responses (Radcliffe), Rev P R C

CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC; II.15 MP, I was glad (Parry). Canon R

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace 8.50 HC; Il M, Teach me O Lord (Byrd); 3.30 E, Beahis vir (Monteverde). QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY WC2: 11 M, Ireland in F. Canon M Mozon: 12.30 HC.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; IL15 MP, Ireland in F. GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SWI: II M, O Had I Wings Like to a Dove (Milton), Rev L H Bryan; 12 HC. ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL SEIO. II S Euch, Sumsion in F, Chaplain.



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WEEKEND · SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 1997

Those who are lucky enough to have holes in their fields can demand considerable sums from rubbish contractors to fill them up

oes anyone, other than the manufacturers of enumental cheese, appreciate the value of holes? I. for one, wish I had more of them. In fact, if the small patch of land I owned were no more than one big hole, I and my bank manager might be the

happiest people on earth. Frustratingly, there was a dip in one of our fields which looked remarkably like a hole when viewed from the right place and in the proper light; but on closer examination it turns out to be an optical illusion and is no more than a dip with a

steep side to it. Damn it. Have no doubt that holes, these days, are valuable commodities. We need holes desperately; otherwise, where are we to put ever-increasing quantities of un-recyclable urban rubbish — if we cannot burn it without worrying ourselves sick about producing greenhouse gases? The answer is that we have to put it down deep holes. It is certainly no total solution, as some have discovered when housing estates have been built on what turn out to be explosive, methanesaturated foundations. But the filling of

### On the whole it's a nice little earner

holes in fields with non-polluting rub-bish, which is then covered with a moderate depth of topsoil and cultivated, alternatives. I understand from those who are blessed with land as pitted as the surface of Mars that they can demand considerable sums of money from rubbish contractors and have their land levelled and made more useful for cultivation at the same time. There are planning considerations, of course, but

on the whole it is a nice little earner. Making money out of holes is no new phenomenon in the part of coastal Suffolk where we live, which is not far from the rivers Alde and Deben. Those who have read Arthur Ransome will have no difficulty visualising these tidal waters with their wide, muddy foreshores and swampy reed beds. The bitterns, osytercatchers and shelduck are among the principal residents; and on

the tourists weekenders have long since fled the cold east wind might as well be on

the edge of the world. And between these

two rivers is an area of land where, a cenequalled prosperity. I am most grateful to the newsletter of the River Alde and Ore

describes the "Suffolk Gold Rush" which ended a century ago. The gold was in the form of coprolite, a fertiliser rich in phosphates, which

DOWN TO EARTH fertiliser itself consisted of marine excreta and bones, together with shells which, when originally laid down, were on the scabed.

Shifts in the earth's crust turned the seabed into dry land and the coprolite bed, only two feet thick, could be found not far below the

All you had to do was dig a hole. And they did. Digging coprolite could double a farm worker's wages. At the height of the boom, it could be sold for two

shillings a ton and an acre could produce

possible to picture the excitement it caused; imagine digging up the price of your cottage in your vegetable patch."

And imagine, too, the joy felt by farmers on discovering, for the first time, the value of this stuff. Not only did it earn a fortune for the lucky few who had it hidden beneath their land, but its fertilising properties brought prosperity to farming customers, too. The distinguished agricultural observer Arthur Young travelled through East Anglia in 1771 and wrote: "It undoubtedly enriches the soil, for the farmers here lay on ten to 12 cartloads an acre and the effect is amazingly great. The soil is ever after greatly the better for it. The effects are so great that, on breaking the poor heaths of this county, they have had exceedingly fine crops from such parts as they manured, while

other parts unmanured have scarcely yielded the seed again."

It is arguable, of course, that this is where the agricultural rot set in, for as soon as farmers were able to boost production beyond previously imaginable levels, it was inevitable that they would develop a taste for it and demand even greater yields, which science would eventually deliver. It was indeed agricultural science which did for the Suffolk Gold Rush 100 years ago, as new methods of phosphate production were developed in the United States and the cheaper stuff was brought by ship to

It is sad to think the good work of the fish, molluses and sea creatures of hundreds of thousands of years cannot be replicated. The residues we lay down for future generations to extract from the earth when the oil, gas and coal have run out seem inadequate by comparison. Just across the lane, my neighbour was lucky enough to have a big hole that needed fill ing. Over the years I have seen what goes in there. I doubt there is much fertilising potential in washing machines.

Readers, letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

# Men with water on the brain



Looking irrigated: Naish with a farm pump

Farmers are building their own reservoirs

parched Britain, says

Sally Smith

to survive in

pyramids and the Sphinx — but it was the effect of a "dirty brown slick of water that impressed Allan Stevenson on his holiday. There was this mighty irrigation system making the desert flower, as it has done for thousands of years," he says. "Every bit as much of an achievement as the

He has a close affinity with the farmers along the Nile. At home in Essex he is dealing with the distribution of millions of gallons of water to his own crops. He is one of the drought-stricken British farmers who are having to learn the science of water storage and management with as much concentration as any Middle

Eastern grower. Drought in recent years, along with the need to provide water in precise amounts, has prompted a scramble to build farm reservoirs.

The Ministry of Agriculture listed 3,220 farm reservoirs in 1995, and since then construction has accelerated, dotting the countryside with squares, rectangles and ovals of water. Robert Orford, of G. Miles and Sons at Bury St Edmunds. is building a dozen farm reservoirs this year. They hold 15-20 million gallons each and cost from £30,000 to more

The work is by no means confined to the great arable areas of the eastern counties. Mr Orford says that farmers across the Midlands and into Gloucestershire and the Welsh



Andrew Naish's family farm depends on accurate use of reservoir water to ensure its potato crop is suitable for turning into crisps and chips

fall is much higher, are also investing in water. Taking it from rivers and streams or boreholes sunk deep into aquifers requires a licence from the Environment Agency, which is responsible for water

Though they must have a licence and pay for it, farmers have no right to unlimited water. When supplies run short they face restrictions and can be ordered to stop imigating. Their best solution, encouraged by the Agency, is to ensure supplies by pumping

border counties, where rain- water into reservoirs during winter. There is no grant aid for building reservoirs, but winter water costs a tenth of the summer price.

Water is not needed just to create bumper crops, it is essential to provide quality produce. Mr Stevenson and his three brothers, who farm 1,300 acres at High Roding, near Chelmsford, aim to grow top-quality spuds for baking. For this market, smooth, blemish-free skins are obligatory. If these potatoes do not have sufficient water, particularly when they are young.

they develop a skin disease known as scab, in appearance as unfortunate as it sounds. Though harmless, scab can slash the crop price from £140 a tonne to as little as £25.

ven in September, when the potatoes are ready for harvesting, those delicate skins have to be protected and water is poured on to dry soil to soften it before digging. The brothers are just completing their fourth reservoir. which will bring their storage capacity to well over 21 million

gallons, linked by three miles of underground pipes to cena deluge of rain they split, and the processors do not want tral points in every field. them," Andrew explains. Beside the River Meden at Steady growth in carrots is

Budby in Nottinghamshire. the Naish family has recently completed a second reservoir, which will bring their storage capacity to 70 million gallons.

David Naish is president of the National Farmers Union, his son Andrew runs the farm. Their potatoes go to be made into crisps and chips, and correct watering is crucial to ensuring they do not grow in fits and starts.

"If they dry out and then get

and parsnips get coarse. The science of water management is as important as having it available, and there has to be constant monitoring. Too much can be as bad as too little: plants need it to take up nutrients, but it can also wash them away. Mr Stevenson has three systems to monitor moisture in the earth. Probes read the soil at different levels. This is backed up by complicated calculations using information

yet more important: "If we are

going to get the best prices, we

have to supply the regular size

and shape that shoppers

want," he says. "Skin finish is

vital and depends on consis-

ient water. Carrots need enor-

only vegetables to suffer.

Beans become dry and woody

and lose their colour; swedes

They are by no means the

mous quantities."

fice, involving wind, humidity and the size and maturity of the crop. "Then," he says, "just to make sure, I go out with the trowel." One of the four brothers will be out checking or moving the great rigs that supply the water day and night. Essex may not resemble the Nile Valley, but the ancient

farming skills are the same.

from the Meteorological Of-

Malcolm Smith on a new view of Britain's most successful predator

### Despite all our efforts, Reynard is here to stay

tions run high. So it is refreshing to read a new report, Foxes and Forestry by Andrew Chadwick, Simon Hodge and Philip Ratcliffe of the Forestry Commission. which presents an objective review of the fox, its ecology, reproduction, economic impact and methods of "controlling" it. The role of commercial forestry in bolstering fox populations is discussed and so, too, is the impact of foxes on lambs and poultry. The report offers an explanation for why some farmers suffer high lamb kills. And it dismisses any notion that fox populations can ever be significantly reduced.

The red fox is widespread in Britain except on many of the Scottish islands. In urban areas their home range is often no more than four hectares. In upland areas where food can be scarce, a fox may range over a few thousand hectares. On lowland farms, 200 or 300

hectures are the norm. Bounties have been paid for dead foxes since the 16th century in England and Wales, since 1457 in Scotland. But "they have not achieved any long-term reduction in fox numbers", concludes the re-view. Foxes are increasing in numbers because of more pheasant rearing, higher rabbit populations and the foxes'

liking for urban areas. If hunting and snaring do not work, what does? "They may be limited by food, by suitable den sites and shelter. by disease and human kills, by their territorial behaviour, or by a combination of all four,"

food supply might limit numbers, in the lowlands it could be food, territorial behaviour and road kills."

"On the island of Muli. where there are no foxes," says the report. "production of lambs over a three-year period was no better than on similar ground on the mainland (where there are loxes). This suggests that predation by foxes was part of, rather than in addition to, the normal scale of lamb losses."

"Ewes in good condition protect their lambs from foxes best," says Dr Raymond Hewson, an expert on fox predation and livestock Ewes kept out all winter suffer higher lamb mortality in the spring, perhaps because they are in poorer condition." This explains why adjacent farmers with differing management practices are likely to suffer different rates of loss.

or farmers suffering heavy lamb losses, the report suggests a largeted control to kill the individual foxes responsible. Specific foxes can develop a predilection for lambs or poultry. Killing the offending fox at the breeding den is the most successful way because lamb killing is often associated with foxes feeding their cubs. The authors review all methods of killing and conclude that using a rifle with spotlights at night (to mesmerise the ani-mals) is the most "selective, quick and humane" method, a view endorsed by John Bryant, Chief Executive of the League Against Cruel Sports.



Fox numbers are growing, thanks to good food supplies

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### ON THE SPOT: HOUGHTON MILL

Rural recommendations The place the bridge at Houghton Mill, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. The view: boats navigating the Great Ouse, acres of flat, water

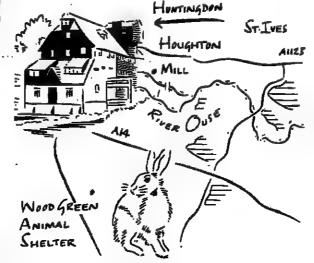
meadowland and the impressive five-storey watermill. Appeal: an accessible, peaceful spot. Afficionados: anglers, walkers and boating enthusiasts.
Historical interest: the mill was valued at 20 shillings in the 1086 Domesday survey and in the 12th century villagers were encouraged to grind their corn there or face heavy fines. In

1822, the philanthropist Potto Brown took over. Today, much of the machinery is in working order.

Time to visit this weekend, 2-5.30pm, or after Easter. How to get there: follow signs from the All23 southeast of

OS reference: 283/719 on sheet 153. . Also nearby: riverside walks, boat hire and Houghton village. Wood Green animal shelter is five miles south.

DEBORAH KING



# High-flyers take their winter break

FEATHER REPORT



Yellowhammer: starting to flock

IN THE low autumn sunshine last weekend I visited one of my favourite stretches of hill country - rolling chalk hills open to the sky. now mostly farmland, but dotted here and there with small woods and copses. The only birds singing were robins in the woods, but after the quiet days of August and September there seemed to be plenty of other birds about again.

Rooks were all over the fields. cawing, flying up and down, far more restless than the little parties of wood pigeons that were gobbling away steadily at the edges of the fields. This is the easiest time of the year, incidentally, to distinguish rooks from crows at a glance, since the bare white patch at the base of the 100k's beak is large and conspicuous. I soon noticed that there were

sounds, rather like the trickling of

hedges and some of the solitary oaks. This is a call particularly used by yellowhammers when they are start-

ing to flock in the autumn. Sure enough, a moment later one flew out of a tree, its yellow flanks and long tail very striking as it looped away from me, and after that inital encounter I kept on seeing them.

SKYLARKS have stopped singing for the time being, but every so often one went up from the earth with a lilting call, and landed again further off.

When skylarks fly, they seem to be extraordinarily lightweight birds, drifting gently slightly from side to side as if they were being blown about by the wind. But when they land and run through the barley water, coming from the hawthorn shoots, they look very sturdy.

almost like small, crested game birds. A few meadow pipits, doubtless on migration, went up with thin, piping calls from a field, and then I heard a loud whooping cry from a distant hedge of oaks, blackthorns and wild roses. I whipped my field glasses on to the hedge and was rewarded by

the sight of a little owl sitting on a fence post. Its eyes were big and bright but its face seemed to be fixed in a scowl. Perhaps it saw the sunlight flash on the lenses of my binoculars - a regular hazard for birdwatchers - and it rose quickly on its soft, rounded wings and dived over the hedge.

All the other birds of the day were finches. Linnets went over, casually throwing out a single phrase of song, then falling back into a lazy twitter.

Greenfinches were making a harsher rattle in the treetops. There was one sudden outburst of liquid, silvery twitters overhead, like the aural equivalent of a shower of sunlight, and I looked up just in time to see a flock of green siskins whirling away

towards a spruce plantation. The siskins are winter visitors to the South of England - and next time I go I expect I shall find the winter thrushes, the redwings and fieldfares, back from Scandinavia.

### DERWENT MAY

■ What's about Birders — look out for storm-blown grey phalaropes, kittiwakes and skuas on inland waters. Twitchers — look out for a black-throated thrush in Fetlar, Shetland, a pallass warhler at Sumburgh Head, Shetland and a Baird's sandpiper at Cantley. Norfolk. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute

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t is not every day that you are obliged to stand up for a national anthem in the middle of the main course, but then Graaff-Reinet, nestling in the arid wilderness of the Great Karoo, South Africa's most spectacular expanse of semi-desert, does have a reputation for eccentricity.

The meal at the Drostdy Hotel (where guests occupy separate houses which once belonged to manumitted slaves) had been going splendidly. We were on the Karoo lamb when the impi of enormous waitresses, dressed in black smocks and frilly white aprons, decided to sing. Before we knew it, they had launched - and I do mean launched, as they collectively resembled a hovercraft with rhythm - into Nkosi Sikelel'iAfrica (God Bless Africa). We shuffled sheepishly to our feet.

Our group of four had decided to sample three of the region's attractions - like greedily dipping into a smorgasbord - in the space of a week. We would look at game (in a malaris-free park), drive through the Karoo (literally "Land of Thirst"), and finally unwind on the empty shores of the Wild Coast.

The new South Africa is even more full of surprises than the old, and a traveller through the Eastern Cape encounters plenty, The Western Cape, especially the famous Garden Route from Cape Town to Plettenberg Bay, is better known by most tourists, but the Eastern Cape from the forests of Tsitsikamma in the south, through Port Eliza-beth to the borders of KwaZulu/Natal in the north - provides in the eyes of many visitors a more

accurate vignette of the country. It was here, after all, that Boer, Xhosa and Briton struggled for ascendancy in the 19th century, and here, in the 20th, that apartheid carved out two black "homelands": Transkei and Ciskei. Not surprisingly, the Eastern Cape became a focal point for black resistance (until 1960 the only university open to blacks was at Fort Hare), and among the region's sons was one Rolihlahla Mandela, who, on arriving at primary school near Umtata, was given by his teacher the

Christian name "Nelson". In his autobiography, Long Walk to Freedom, Mandela describes his home region as "a beautiful country of rolling hills, fertile valleys. and a thousand rivers and streams". Flying into Port Elizabeth from Johannesburg, you can see what he means. The rounded. humpback topography looks from the air like an army of giants praying to Mecca.

Port Elizabeth, named after the wife of a former British governor, is the springboard for the region. It is an agreeable, unfussy little city with a well-kept secret in Hacklewood House, a private residence lovingly converted into a hotel. The size of the Victorian bathrooms would make a maharajah blush.

The wide open spaces that most visitors come for, however, begin an hour up the road at Shamwari game reserve. Roughly 30 miles long by eight wide. Shamwari has won conservation awards, and boasts a wildlife research team as well as an anti-poaching team to deter the most dangerous predator of all. So far, its precious rhino have proved safe from attack.

We arrived at the lodge just in time for the night game drive, when a bird uncharitably called the Spotted Dickhead lived up to its name by hogging the headlights and refusing to get out of the way. What I particularly like about these drives is the amount of useless but riveting information provided by the rangers. An ele-

(1



The Shamwari game reserve, winner of conservation awards, employs a private anti-poaching squad which has managed to keep its black and white white

phant, for example, eats for 18 hours a day, consuming up to 250kgs of vegetation and depositing 100kgs of dung. One of our number kept similar eating hours remarked, as we bounced along pitted tracks, that he regarded the herds of deer as a live menu. He had a point, for the kudu steak atthe evening barbecue was excellent.

ozing next morning in a metal four-poster of Heath-Robinson design, i was wakened before dawn by an avian cacophony. One bird, which croaked "Psst! Psst!", I dubbed the Gossip Bird. Another, which appeared to cry 'Move the resolution" became the Trade Union Bird. In vain I listened for the Spotted Dickhead, but the only sound resembling it a metronomic squawk - turned

out to be someone's alarm clock. Driving through the Karoo towards Graaff-Reinet, the road climbs through a couple of thousand feet. The town itself, founded in 1786, is the fourth oldest in South Africa, and a Victorian-era notice in the Drostdy Hotel proclaims: "Invalids and pleasure seekers will find Graaff-Reinet one of the most healthy and pleasantly situated towns in the coloriv."

More than 200 of its buildings are listed as national monuments, most having whitewashed walls and exterior woodwork painted in a mandatory shade of "Graaff-Reinet green". The determination to keep the traditional colour scheme is a trifle obsessional ("Not much green here," said a black friend laconically, gesturing to shanties on the edge town), but this is a place that understands rules.

Anticipating Hillary Clinton by more than 100 years, the town banned smoking in the street in the 19th century - to prevent thatched roofs from catching fire. And when the first woman to be hanged in South Africa, a prostitute who had murdered her lover, met her end there in 1842, officials carefully tied

### EASTERN CAPE FACT FILE

Peter Taylor travelled with Eastern Cape Tourism (01473 22565) fax 01473 226199j, which can Elizabeth, Shamwari Game Reserve. the Drostdy Hotel, Graaff-Reinet and Umngazi River Bungalows. For example, a week at Shamwari or Umngazi River Bungalows (or a week divided between the two) costs around £800-£1,000 per person (including return air fares from London) in low season, April to etember, and around £1,400-EL800 per person in high season. October to March. Southern Africa Travel (0171-630 0100), which specialises in the Eastern Cape. can also arrange itineraries. ■ Peter Taylor flew with Virgin

Atlantic (01293 747747), which has daily services from Heathrow to Johannesburg from £448, and connects with Sun Air. Comalr. and South African Airways for Port Elizabeth and East London ■ Wings Over Africa provide:

charter light aircraft in the Fastern (00 27 491 91 0027) or via Eastern Cape Tourism.

her petticoat to her ankles so that

her underwear was not revealed as

One likes to think of her wearing

Yet, along with the sense of

conformity and the power of the kirk (the British sent out Scottish

ministers to try to Presbyterianise

the Calvinists), the town has always

known how to let its hair down.

Illegal white brandy was produced for years, with people burning tyres

in their back gardens to put police

to the nearby village of Nieu-Bethesda to look at an exhibition of

psychedelic owl sculptures in con-

crete and glass; attended a gossipy

dinner party, whose glamorous

hostess turned out to be the

In the space of 24 hours we drove

off the scent.

she swung from the gallows.

Graaff-Reinet green knickers.



Lions and their cubs can be seen at Shamwari game park

girlfriend of a former state presi-

dent; and watched in amazement as

a late-night drinker at the Drostdy-

performed his party trick of jump-

position. Then he did it backwards.

cal Spandau Kop, a huge outcrop towering above the plain like the

nose cone of a ballistic missile; and,

beside it, the Valley of Desolation,

crumbling columns of weather-blasted dolomite, resembling the

Gothic ruins of an extinct civilisa-

One feels an intruder in land-

scapes such as these, for the place

belongs to those creatures who lurk

ing on to a 4ft bar from a standing

ust outside the town is the

twin spectacle that no one

who visits Graaff-Reinet can

miss: the perfectly symmetri-

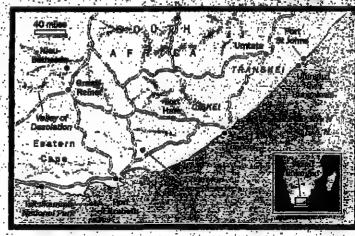
No vises are required for holders. The Eastern Cape is a is casual by day (shorts, T-shirts) and .
"smart casual" at night (trousers, open-neck shirt). In winter, March to tember, take something warm

should be taken with regard to personal belongings. It is loadvisable to drive on rural roads after dark as animuls often travel on them by night.

Reading: Nelson Mandela's autobiography, Long Walk to Preedom (Little, Brown, £20). For the viewpoint of an anguished white liberal, try My Traitor's Heart by
Rian Malan (Vintage, 7.99). For
people who take their birdwatching seriously, Newman's Birds of Southern Africa, which is published in South Africa by Southern Book Publishers, indispensible, South Africa, Lesothe and Swaziland (Lonely Planet, Ell.95, with a new edition out next month at £13.99.

amid the boulders and to the black eagles, which swoop and wheel exultantly at sunset. Later, I discovered from Peter Muller-Brunke. one of South Africa's pioneer microlight aviators, that tourists; too, can fly with the eagles in the Valley of Desolation.

As things worked out, we were to have thrills in the sky ourselves. Sending the baggage on a sevenhour road journey, we chartered a six-seater for the 90-minute flight to Port St Johns on the aptly named Wild Coast. Beneath us, saw-edged escarpments gave way to gentler contours and hill villages of the sort Mandela must have been raised in: then beneath our bobbing little pod was the Indian Ocean, foaming in a white frenzy as it reached the uncompromising shores of Africa.



The landing at Port St Johns is hairy as the unmarmed airstrip perches on the edge of sheer cliffs lunging I.200ft to the river below. Before taking off again, the insoud-ant pilot asked us to shoo away a cow that had wandered on to the

hen a couple of cars from our hotel arrived to take us to Umngazi River Bungalows I volunteered to drive, and spent the next 40 minutes delicately circumnavigating potholes. Our destination, however, tucked into the sandy estuary of the Umngazi River, was worth any amount of trouble. Beside the terraces of the thatched cottages (each with a rather erotic open-air shower), the river flowed into the ocean, the gigantic, ever-pounding surf as insistent as a distant motorway. A sign at the entrance to Umngazi reads: "Kick your shoes off, relax", and indeed, the place is laid-back to the point of being horizontal.

At sunset we collected some

booze and cruised up the lazy river. A lofty, nonchalant fish eagle observed our passage as kamikaze kinglishers plummeted for their prey on either side. Yard-long iguanas nuzzied each other on a rock, and by the reedy bank a local man was landing a huge silver granta. We applauded, and he bowed During a three hour walk along the beach the following morning we didn't encounter more than half a dozen other visitors.

The seven-hour haul by road back to Port Elizabeth is a reminder of South Africa's vastness. Being driven through the chaotic town of Umtata, with payement vendors spilling into the main road, I wondered whether plans for a museum at the nearby village of Qunu, where Mandela spent his childhood years, would ever come to fruition. Probably not, but memorials are often a disappointment. The recently unveiled statue at East London to "black consciousness" leader Steve Biko is a miserable effort, distiked by locals and seemingly erected for the aggrandisement of white philanthropists.

Pathetic, I thought, and yawned. What will Mandela's monument be? His legacy. I suppose, is new South Africa itself. As villages, drifted by, I began to wonder whether any outsider could ever really know this beguiling, sometimes worrying country. The African road rolled on the late afternoon sun beating fiercely through the windows. Soon, I was



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### INDIA: TRAIL OF ENLIGHTENMEN

هڪذار من ريامل

# Walking in the footprints of Buddha

f you go west from Delhi you find Rajasthan, a state full of picturesque forts and palace-hotels packaged and marketed for the comfort-seeking Western tourist. If you go east you find Bihar, a state of great beauty and history that attracts more Koreans and Japanese than Europeans.

Bihar is India's ninth biggest state, yet its second most populous: more than 86 mil-lion people — the majority living in medieval farming villages - are crammed into a lush landscape that stretches from the Himalayan foothills down to the forests of Orissa.

Despite being liberally watered by the great Ganges river. Bihar is poor and lags decades behind India's booming economy. The average income is about £40 a year. The caste system is fiercely rigid, society is feudal, polit-ical awareness is high and gang warfare is rampant. But it is not the picturesque feudalism that attracts so many tourists from east Asia. It is Buddha. They have long paid highly to follow the Buddhist trail, which wins serious street-cred back home.

I had come to Bihar for Buddha, 100, travelling with Shantum Seth, a lay Buddhist monk who mixes working for the United Nations in Delhi with leading trips to places associated with Buddha's life. We were off on a mini-Buddhist trail — Budhgaya, Rajgir and Nalanda. Our flight to Pama, Bihar's capital, was through clear November skies with views of the snowcapped Himalayas, where Buddha was born in around 563 BC at Lumbini, now in Nepal. Below flowed the bountiful Ganges.

aina, strung out along the river's banks, was a surprise. The handsome avenues and grand façades built as New Pama for British bureaucrats in the 1920s reminded me of Lutyens's New Delhi imperialism. And its authority. For neither here nor in the bustling old city, nor down by the silent quays and river steps that for centuries hummed with trade, were there any of the usual wandering cows. Apparently, the government had decreed that all cows must be kept off the streets that day - and, unbelievably, they were, although I was glad to see them back on the streets the next morning.

More importantly, where were the hints of Patilaputra? This was the great city that flourished here during Buddha's lifetime and which the Greek envoy. Megasthenes, described in the 3rd century BC as having 64 gates in its Louise Nicholson went on a

pilgrimage to the eastern state of Bihar

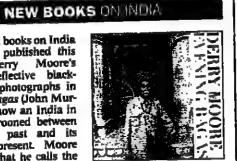


bastioned walls and palace pillars "clasped around with vines embossed in gold and ornamented with designs of birds and foliage in gold and silver". Only a chariot wheel pillar remained, displayed in the museum with quantities of sublime stone sculptures, material proof of Patna's vanished greatness. Clearly, Buddha's footprints were not to be found here. Not a sign of an East Asian tourist. either. Doubtless, they were diligently doing the full trail. much of it in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh - Sravasti (where Buddha spent 24 rainy seasons), Lumbini (his birth-

TWO travel books on India have been published this week. Derry Moore's moody, reflective blackand-white photographs in Evening Ragas (John Murray, £20) show an India in decay, marooned between its feudal past and its dynamic present. Moore captures what he calls the "cultural osmosis" between European and Indian architecture in the dark days before mass tourism.

The mansions and interiors of Calcutta in his im-- and those of Hyderabad, Lucknow and other cities — have changed little since his first visit in 1976; those I have seen recently are still frozen in time. As he puts it: "The Bengal climate, the enemy of plasterwork, paint and bricks, having been allowed to perform its work of destruction relatively unmolested, now seemed to pause and leave the buildings supported by their

George Michell takes a different view of tourism in the first edition of the Blue Guide to Southern India



(A & C Black, £16.99). An indefatigable traveller and optimist, he had poured years of devoted study of India's architecture into this guide. He calls the 400 places he writes about "a banquet" of the familiar and unfamiliar, yet modestly he makes "no claim to

Michell organises his guide as a series of bases from which to explore. One is the temple town of Tiruchirapalli, from which he suggests six mouth-watering expeditions. I've visited Srinivasanatlur's Choia temple, but the carvings on Avudaiyarkoil's temple are something to

place), Kushinagar (where he died) and Sarnath (the site of Buddha's first sermon after

enlightenment). We set off for Bodhgaya in an unreliable-looking car that was the best Patna could manage. Trundling down lanes built as high causeways between glowing paddy fields. Shantum began talking about Buddhism while I listened and gazed out at huge isolated panyan, trees drooping their lateral roots, at villages of mud huts decorated with rice-flour paintings, and at a saliron-turbaned man driving his veiled daughter to her wed-

ding on his bullock cart.
We muddled through various traffic jams. One was caused by six elephants on their way to be sold at the Elephant Fair at Sonepur. Another was for a festooned truck parading a local Hindu goddess accompanied by mu-sicians belting out a hip Hindi beat for the village dancers. Another was a roadblock because a village girl had been run over, since she came from the Chief Minister's clan there were likely to be reprisals.

As darkness fell, the town of Gaya was a crush of people, like a medieval fair. Steaming cauldrons infused the air with spiciness. In cupboard-like shops lit by oil lamps sat moneylenders and tobacco sellers. Only the jewellers and sweetmeat shops dazzled with electric light.

odhgaya lay just beyond, silent and dark. We shared our lodgings with a coachload of Taiwanese who ate dinner and then got down to some chanting, complete with loudhailer. At sunrise the next morning.

the Mahabodhi temple complex was already busy. Railings were decorated with brightly coloured bunting and flags, the Sri Lankan ones like crochet, the Nepalese ones printed with Buddha's words. The atmosphere was cosmo-politan, almost celebratory and yet intensely peaceful. Huddles of monks swathed

in saffron, yellow and deep burgundy cloth sat murmuring and meditating beneath the sacred pipal tree. It was here that Prince Siddhartha meditated all night long and achieved "bodhi", enlightenment. Henceforward he was Buddha, the Awakened One. The great religion would spread throughout India and beyond and thrive for 1,000 years, until Hinduism made a new bid for popularity and even adopted Buddha into its vast pantheon of gods.

Today, India's five million Buddhists — a handful in a population of a billion -include Neo-Buddhists. Often poor farmers from Madhya Pradesh in central India, they are inspired by the Buddhist convert Dr B.R. Ambedka. who rose from untouchable status to sitting on the commit-tee which devised India's constitution. A few were here, looking defiant, perhaps unhappy about the Hindu temple built here some centuries ago over one of their most sacred

Kenya Coast

Kenya Safari

Kerala, India

Nile Cruise

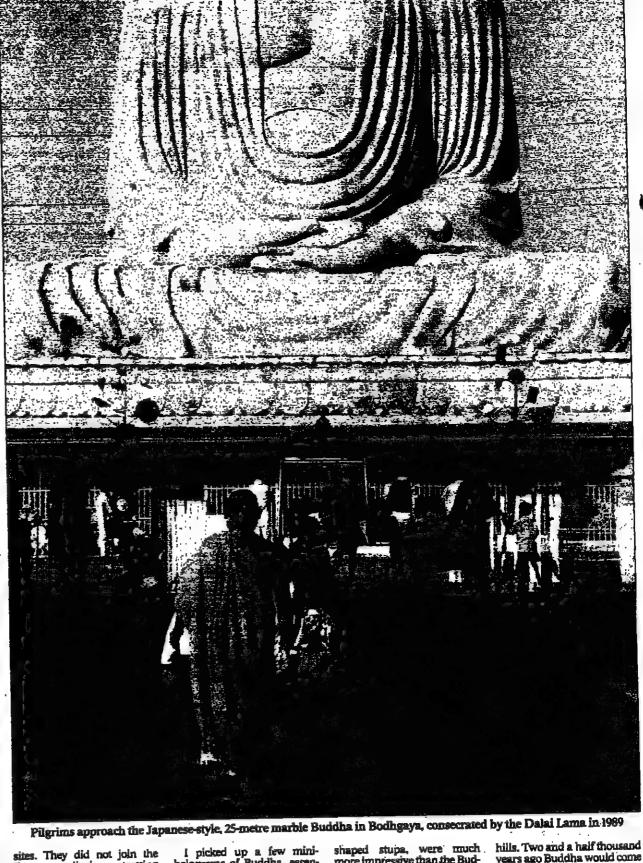
Sri Lanka

I picked up a few mini-holograms of Buddha, essenmore impressive than the Bud-Eastern pilgrims trotting round Bodhgaya's string of tial pilgrim shopping, and we dha-associated spots in Rajgir. This time the museum did sped on to Rajgir. During the rainy seasons, Buddha would newly built Chinese, Vietnamhave visitors, but its rules ese. Tiberan and Thai temples.

forbade weapons, daggers, return here from his tours as the leading spiritual teacher of the day. Later, the nearby University of Nalanda rose to be the finest in the east. Its remarkable remains, set around a great beehive-

singing and megaphones. As the sun lowered we climbed Rajgir's Gridhrakuta Hill to reach Vulture's Seat, a high terrace that looked west-wards over the thickly wooded

years ago Buddha would come here: today we were alone. Shartum gave flowers to the little shrine, lit a candle and we sat on meditation cushions made by Best Tailors of Bodhgaya High above the silent and empty landscape, I breathed in, breathed out, emptied my mind and felt remarkably refreshed.



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carvings was left for me alone.

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In Buddha's footprints

■ Louise Nicholson travelled to India with Worldwide Journeys & Expeditions (0171-381 8639), which can tailor-make trips throughout India. For example, a two-week tour, November 10-24, visiting the Sonepur Elephant Fair near Pama, Varanasi, Khajuraho, Gwalior, Agra and Delhi, costs from EL895 per person hased on two sharing, including flights, internal transport, a private guide and driver, and room-only

To join one of Shautum Seth's buddhist journeys, contact Vivien Bell (01730 812362). The next "Pilgrimages in the Footsteps of the Buddha through India and Nepal" are from December 20 to January 3 (approx cost £2,220), and January 10-29 (approx £2,510). Pilgrimages begin and end in Delhi. The price includes escort, transport, food and lodging but excludes international air fare, visa and

■ Louise Nicholson's India Companion is published by Headline (£14,99). The autho



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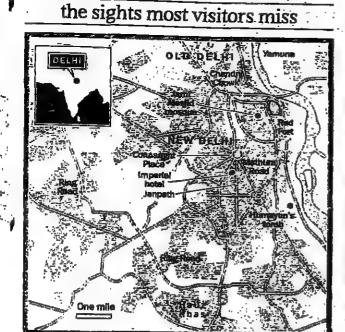
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### INDIA: DISCOVERING THE CAPITAL

هكذامن الإمل

# A day in the life of Delhi

Adam Hopkins hired a car, a driver and a guide to show him



Delhi, a city I already knew quite well, I decided I would do the town in style and organised a car, a driver and a guide. Just for myself.

The inspiration was not so much Tamburlaine the Great or the Mogul emperor Shah Jahan — of Taj Mahal fame both of whom had made a big impression here, but an expat friend who gave a birthday party and hired an elephant to stand outside his door in place of the usual balloons.

Given the comparative wealth of India's capital city and the great, wide spaces of New Delhi in particular imperial handiwork of British architects Lutyens and Baker you do not feel so oppressed. by poverty as in other parts of the sub-continent.

And so the car. It was booked for 8.30sm. Already, from my perch on the 15th floor of the not-altogether-tobe-recommended Hotel Kanishka, full of Russians swaying slightly and giving off a whill of vocks, I had watched the dawn come up over a swath of New Delhi.

Well beneath my window, black kites and crows were flying over the enormous florai roundabouts. Early vehicles headed straight for the same spot as one another, the first arrival cutting directly across the other's path and so provoking, even in near-empty streets, the kind of waterboatman darts and sallies that characterise local traffic at the height of day.

The sun began to shine through the quotidian smog, casting faint rays on the domes of Herbert Baker's. huge Secretariat buildings. At 8.05, when I was in the

shower - this being India, where service to tourists is sometimes super-punctifious. the driver announced his arrival. By 8.30 I was in the lobby with Shivani Seth, sariclad city guide. We started with a planning session. The oldest bits of Delhi are up in the north and down in the deepest south of the city, while New Delhi itself is more or. less smack in the middle. Where to start, then, to get the

best historical sequence?
The problem arises because just about every early ruler simply started up somewhere in the general vicinity, depend-

ing on scenery or soothsavers.

crawling with Koranic script and ringed with elegant balconies. It stands next to the first imperial triumphalism from

Adam Hopkins made his own travel arrangements. His car, driver and guide were provided by Cox and Kings (0171-873

5900); approx cost £35. Further informations Indian Government Tourist Office

Residing: City of Djinus, by William Dairymple (Flamingo, E7.99). Delhi: Agra & Jaipar, by Louise-Nicholson (Odyssey, £9.99). Delhi and Agra: A Traveller's Companion, by Michael Alexander (Constable, £7.95). Delhi: City Guide (Lonely Planet, £5.95).

producing a new city of his own. There are seven or eight early versions of Delhi in the south, some so far out as to offer a glimpse of Indian coun-tryside, with bullocks, water buffaloes and women washing clothes in water tanks.

These outer cities include a number of evocative heaps of stone and the magnificent Qutab Minar, a minaret mosque in India, built in the looted remnants of 27 Hindu temples. Definitely on the priority list.

However, way up north stands the Mogul version — so-called Old Delhi itself, as compact and crowded as New Delhi is open, with the lamous Red Fort built by Shah Jahan. "Let's begin with the Red Fort," says Shivani. "It gets so

I remembered it well enough when we arrived, the

enormous outer walls in fierce red sandstone, the barrack buildings put up inside by the British after the Indian mutiny, the 17th-century Hall of Public Audience, with its multi-lobed arches and open spaces forested with pillars. Looking over the former course of the Yamuna River. now a sandy plain with a Sunday morning flea-market, is the harem and the imperial residence, long since stripped of any article of value.

Without Shivani, however, I would never have spotted the image of Orpheus inlaid in stone on a decorative wall in the Hall of Public Audience this in a Muslim building nor learnt the names of the trees in the fort enclosure. pipal and ashok and neem. nor heard about the many uses of the neem tree in Ayurvedic medicine.

Nor, indeed, without reference to the multitudinous snake charmers, would I have heard bow the government has banned a drug made from the poison of cobras. In India there is always a vast amount going on — all of it fascinating - but you never hear a tenth of it unless you travel with a friend or a good guide.

So began a hectic but enthralling tour of monuments from the (Mogul) Jami Masjid

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mosque, to the (Mogul) tomb of Humayun — with turbanlike dome and energetic patterning in red and white and passing among the cere-monial (British) buildings of New Delhi until finally we arrived, as light was dimming, at the Quab Minar. Here half

an evening stroll. On the way we had found time for a cycle rickshaw ride through otherwise impenetra-ble Chandni Chowk, passing through its tiny alleys where sacred cows wandered among market vegetables, munching the occasional pile of reject mangetours. Shivani said:

"You do realise that most

Delhi, on their way to Agra or the forts of Rajasthan, and usually devote half of that to shopping?" So along the way we stitched in shopping, too.

had made a start myself

"We had found time for a rickshaw ride through the otherwise impenetrable Chandni Chowk, passing through its tiny alleys where sacred cows wandered among market stalls"

in Janpath, the great cheapo emporium of New Delhi, where openthe populace, mainly in family groups, seemed to be taking fronted shops display the handicrafts of all India. Here there are Kashmiri carpets and shawls in silk and wool, along with sweetly painted papier-maché boxes. Gujarat and Rajasthan contribute quaint, mirrored fabrics and stiff little cushion covers, with miniature paintings on silk.

There is brass; there are tall hookahs and paper-thin leathsandals with thongs for the

big toe; there are embroidered jerkins made specially for the younger class of traveller, with pavement vendors trying to log wooden chess sets or maybe beedies, tiny Indian cigarettes. There is even a Tibetan market.

But Shivani was extremely disapproving of Janpath generally, if not of the Kashmir Emporium. "Most things you buy there won't even last a day. First time you take the wrapping off they fall to bits."
Instead we made a quick round of the middle-level craft

markets - places like Sundar Nagar or Hauz Khas, both in New Delhi. Most are closed on Sundays but are certainly worth a look-in on a weekday. Her coup de grace, how-

ever, was Saga, a craft department store on Mathura Road in New Delhi — one of scores of such establishments which have sprung up over the past five years, offering a regally calm atmosphere for shopping and a genuine prospect that the goods will be up to standard: jewellery (a golden choker with rubies caught my inexpert eye), see-through marble lamps, dusky conton dhurries, stripy Kashmir sweaters and carpets, carpets

aplenty, carpets everywhere. "Carpets are the big favour-ite with British visitors," said Shivani. "I always tell my people, don't scatter your money, just buy the one thing you really want and you can keep for ever."



Who goes there: Backpackers; package tourists on the North India circuit, and, from tomorrow, the Queen and Prince Philip. who will spend two nights at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the presidential palace, at the start of their state visit to India.

■ Getting the ball rolling: For free brochures, call 01233 211999. If you have specific inquiries, contact the Indian Government Tourist Office on 0171–137 3677 or write to them at 7 Cork Street, London WIX 2LN.

Perfect timing: Delhi is beautiful in October: the humidity and monsoon rains are over and temperatures are bearable Winter nights become cool and daytime temperatures pleasant. M Suitease strategy. Take out: a respectable outfit for social

gatherings or obtaining help from officialdom; smog mask (road pollution is dreadful). Bring back: Carpets, batik-print wall hangings, marble boxes, jewellery, silk, brassware... The pound in your pocket & buys about 55 rupees; unobtainable in Britain but you will get a fair rate at the 24-hour exchange counter in the airport arrivals hall. Sterling or US

dollar traveller's cheques useful; credit cards widely accepted in Delhi but less useful outside the city. ■ Big no-nos: Avoid the touts around Connaught Place, in central new Delhi, and Paharganj, near New Delhi Railway Station, who act for "government-approved travel agents" offering trips to Kashmir. They are unofficial outlits and it is not safe to go there, despite their protestations.

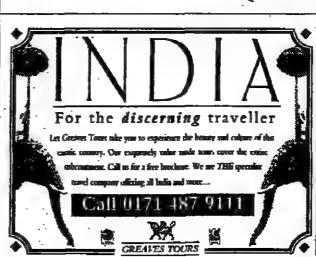
■ Not to be missed: Chandni Chowk, the main thoroughfare, with more than 1,000 tiny shops; tea on the lawn at the Imperial Hotel on Janpath: and for Raj atmosphere, driving around the elegant houlevards of New Delhi at dusk.

Way to go: British Airways (0345 22211) has daily direct flights to Delhi. Prices from £818, including tax. Air India (0181-745 1000) also flies daily to Delhi — return fares available through Trailfinders (0171-938 3366) start at £451 until October 30. Prices then rise gradually to £771 in the pre-Christmas week.

Many good packages? Cox and Kings (0171-873 5000) trips include a nine-day tour of the Golden Triangle, including Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, from £695, including flights. B&B, escorts. transfers and sightseeing. Other operators featuring Delhi: Dragoman (01728 861133), Bales Tours (01306 885991) and Abercrombie & Kent (0171-730 9600).

■ Dull but essential: British passport holders must buy a six-month tourist visa (£26). Details: (0171-836 8484).

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محدرمن رالإمل

# Moonlight run and tumble down an ice wall

A FALL of 1.000ft begins with a single turn. prat on what was supposed to be a romantic final run of the season, a midnight descent of the fabled Vallee Blanche in Chamozúx.

Anyone who has ridden up to the viewing platform on the Aiguille du Midi (at 3,842m) will have been transfixed by the panorama below. On a busy weekend hundreds of ant-like skiers can be seen, skis on shoulders, inching their way down the steep spine of the ley arete (ridge) which leads from the Aiguille du Midi ice cave down to where it is safe and flat

enough to don skis. Anyone who has tackled the arête will probably swear that it is less than 3ft wide. When properly prepared, however, the path is broad enough for ing those on the end don't nd the straight drop into

Forget the café and croissants;

France is most favoured for skiing

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from the top of the elected to ski. I knew there was a large crevasse, a rimaye, in front of the glacier floor below, having seen the video in which the adventure skier

rimaye after falling farther up the slope. My own fall was a foregone conclusion from the very first jump turn, which my skis, skittering on ice npacted over centuries, and slid me down the aptly named

Poubeile (dustbin) Couloir. Shaking with adrenaline, with survival stirred endorphins and nursing no

my lucky stars as I skied all the way down into the deserted early-morning streets of Chanix. It was some 22 km in the cool floodlight of a full moon; sparks flew as the steel edges of

over rocks frozen in ice, and halogen-bright beams were reflected from quartz crystals deep within the tumbling crevasses of the Mer de Glace.

For some, France is croissants and chardonnay, crisp flures with café au lait. For me, it's this kind of skiing. Hundreds of thousands of recreational skiers, many of early intermediate standard. have skied the Vallée Blanche

mountain guide. Hundreds have died here too, on the Mont Blanc massif.

France claims to be "the world's biggest ski area". Statistics boast 371 "ski centres". Since this term is undefined it may be argued that Japan has more, but the French also claim the world's largest nummost lifts: 4,138.

France is the nation most favoured by adept British skiers, and by upmarket tour office counts 78 UK tour operators, more than for any other skiing nation. France is also home to the finest selection of luxury chalets in the Alps, and more ski-in, ski-out nmodation than anywhere else — as well as some of the most brutal architecture (Les Menuires, La Plagne, Tignes), the stinglest self-ca-tering flats (two-person studios of 14 sq m) and resort vated the sniff and the sneer to



### **OPERATORS**

NOWHERE have small specialist firms succeeded more than in France. whether it is for unabashed luxury, as with The Ski Company (0171-730 9600); for short breaks and corporate skiing, as with Ski Weekend (01367 241636); or for the most tasteful chalets concentrated in a single resort, as with Collineige (01276 24262) in Chamonix, Meriski (01451 844788) in Méribel and YSE (0181-871 5117) in Val d'Isère, Doug Sager writes. But it is the six mainstream holiday companies which put France at the top of the popularity league with British skiers, around a quarter of whom choose

the resorts of France over any Judging from the average prices of holidays which were sold last year, France cost the same as, or less than. Austria and Italy - both of which are better known for their

bargain skiing. Among the mainstream companies, Crystal (0181-399 5144) offers the largest number of French resorts (25), followed by Inghams (0181-780 4444) and First Choice (0990 557 755), which both have 20 resorts, giving them one more than Thomson Ski and Snowboarding (0990 329 329). Neilson (0990 904 444) has 15 French resorts this year, and Airtours (01706 260 000) Offers 12.



### Heading for the heights in La Plagne, one of many French resorts to have become popular among British skiers On superior slopes



BIGGEST AND BEST: MONT BLANC MASSIF

veryone should ski on the Mont Blanc massif at least once — and during the French school halidays it seems as though everyone is. The skiing centres of the Chamonix valley between Le Tour and Les Houches are far-flung and still mostly unconnected, despite last season's cable car linking the intermediate areas of Le. Brevant and La Flégère.

Yet this is France's biggest ski pass region, with 425 miles of pistes ranging through the Mont Blanc tunnel to Courmayeur in Italy and over to the chic slopes of Megève. The ski pass also includes unlimited access to sightseeing rides up the Aiguille du Midi and to Montenvers via cog railway, where the glacier hotel is expected to be open this

I love Chamonix for its quiet corners, the tiny English Cem-etery, the echoing halls of the Alpine Museum and the stained-glass windows in the

crevesses. As a city, Chamonix iacks resort charm but makes up for it with plenty of affordable accommodation and local cafes.

Argentière is a better base for quick access to the advanced terrain of the Grands Montets. Around its old church, Argentière has a tran-quil, ageless air, but the main road is a nightmare of traffic and tacky shops.

Collineige (01276 24262) is the premier chalet operator in the Chamonix valley, and is the British agent for Chamo-nix's Compagnie des Guides. Ski Weekend (01367 241636) is the leading firm for hotel-based short breaks and off-

### CHALET HAVEN: THE TROIS VALLEES

Méribel should lead any affluent intermediate's list of top resorts. The Trois Vallees, with 375 miles of pistes, is the world's largest interconnected ski area. Courchevel, which is

Continued on facing page

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### SKI WEEKEND

### No to **British** guides

THOUSANDS of British skiers may have to make their own way around the pistes in France this winter if ski school directors are successful in banning foreign holiday company ski guides. Their qualifi-cations are deemed unacceptable to the French authorities, Doug Sager writes.

Members of ESF, the French ski school, met this week to prepare plans to have British ski guides arrested by local gendarmes "Méribel, Courchevel,

Tignes and Val d'Isère are where we anticipate problems, said Laurence Hicks, sales director of Inghams, after the Federation of Tour Operators met this week. Last year Inghams re-placed British ski hosts with French ski teachers in Courchevel, at no cost to holidaymakers.

MAINTH DISCHO

-- £125,000 × £

Crystal's brochure warns that its escorting service in France may be cancelled altogether.

Meriski director Colin Matthews believes his customers may have to pay £10 a day for an ESF escort, who has the right to cut ahead of belidaymakers in lift queues in the Trois Vallées.

ous, now that the Pas du Lac

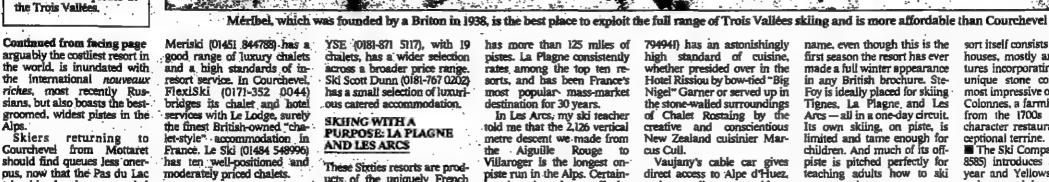
telecabine has been upgraded

apartment comple

tion this season.

ishes like nowhere else in the

Trois Vallées. In Méribel.



### SKIER'S CHOICE. L'ESPACE KILLY

to eight persons per cabin. Méribel, founded by a Briton in 1938, is the best choice for skiers looking to exploit the full range of Trois Vallées Val d'Isère sets expert skiers on the edge, while still affording them expectation of comskiing and is more affordable ing home alive. The two Espace Killy areas of Tignes and Val d'Isère have half the than Courchevel, though even more overrun by the English. The other main Trois skiing (225 miles) of the Trois Vallées resorts are les Menuires and Val Thorens. recommend the untracked deboth typified by massive scent down "Mickey's Ears". the only exit involving a Menuires has frequently been rubber-boat crossing of the described as the ugliest of lake and a climb up a water-Alpine communities. Val

Thorens has the advantage of Two ecologically sensitive underground funiculars and altitude; at 2,300m it can claim to be the highest resort village other well-placed lifts mean that this is one of the few areas Val Thorens, with the high-est skiing and most reliable snow, has suffered serious in the Alps where lift queues do not inhibit wide-ranging

oueues in the past, but bigger ■ Nothing in Val d'Isère can beat The Ski Company (0171-559 8585) when it comes to nocable cars should ease conges-The chalet holiday flourcost-spared luxury ski-lodges

with unobstructed views on

the edge of the snowfields.

resort service. In Courchevel, FlexiSki (0171-352 0044) bridges its chalet and hotel services with Le Lodge, surely the finest British-owned "chalet-style" accommodation in France. Le Ski (01484 548996)

YSE (0181-871 5117), with 19 chalets, has a wider selection across a broader price range. Ski Scott Dunn (0181-767 0202) has a small selection of luxurious catered accommodation.

### SKHING WITH A PURPOSE: LA PLAGNE AND LES ARCS

These Sixties resorts are products of the uniquely French idea of constructing towerblock accommodation high up the mountain instead of expanding the ancient villages on the valley floor. While they are the logical choice for efficient and cheap access to the slopes, they are unpopular with the British chalet crowd.

La Plagne is a constellation of ten accommodation centres. six at snow-sure altitudes, and Les Arcs is a trio of towering apartment villages unimaginatively designated by altitude as Arc 1600, Arc 1800 and Arc

2000. The horror of hotel accommodation in La Plagne — broken lifts, unlit walkways, soulless furnishings should not be minimised. The Kafkaesque corridors and slow, steel lifts of Arc 2000 are equally dispiriting.

But the skiing experience in both these resorts is the equal of the Trois Vallees, and can be liad for half the price. Les Arcs and La Plagne have skiing up to 3,200m, and each

has more than 125 miles of pistes. La Plagne consistently rates among the top ten re-sorts, and has been France's most popular mass-market destination for 30 years.

In Les Arcs, my ski teacher told me that the 2,126 vertical metre descent we made from the Aiguille Rouge to Villaroger is the longest on-piste run in the Alps. Certainly, dropping down off the rocks and into the "couloir en

S" behind Les Arcs a few weeks later with British mountain guide Nick Parks was the most heart-thumping. knee-rattling skiing I experi-

There are British skiers who go to resorts to ski, as opposed to lunching on the mountain and lounging around the bars. And for the most skiing, right outside the door, at the cheapest price, La Plagne and Les Arcs serve their purpose.

As official UK agents for

both resorts, Erna Low (0171-584 2841) has the most detailed knowledge of where to find acceptable accommodation. For those who really want to ski France the French way, Club Med (0171-581 1161) has centres at 2,000m in both

### FAMILY HIDEAWAY VAUJANY

in Vaujany there are no lift queues — thanks to a 160-person cable car running out of a hamlet with barely that number of permanent residents — and so there are mercifully few other people.

Since it is the only operator in Vaujany, it is impossible to speak of the village without mentioning Ski Peak, a family-oriented company with chalet, self-catering and hotel accommodation. Unlike most such moderately priced family operations, Ski Peak (01252

794941) has an astonishingly high standard of cuisine, whether presided over in the Hotel Rission by bow-tied "Big Nigel" Garner or served up in the stone-walled surroundings Chalet Rostaing by the creative and conscientious New Zealand cuisinier Mar-

cus Cuil. Vaujany's cable car gives direct access to Alpe d'Huez, an intermediate resort with an excellent snow record and a claim to the longest black runs in Europe. And many of the connecting slopes present their own challenges. Though rated red for intermediates. these mandatory passages are often too steep, narrow and crowded for comfort.

By contrast, the long — and at the end of the day, empty run back home to Vaujany turned every atrophied adolescent in our group into a screaming downhill racer.

### NEWEST ENTRY: SAINTE-POY

At the top of the lifts we strap skis on to rucksacks and begin climbing. Three-quarters of an hour and only 300 vertical metres later, we click into bindings and one after the other jump two metres down into the soft, sheltered northface powder of Fogliettaz, and 1,789 turns - I counted them.

The next day, Top Ski uides drive us to nearby La Rosière, where as soon as we have skied across the Italian border on the Petit St Bernard, a helicopter whisks us up to the Ruitor glacier.

There we dance down slick. spring snow runs into the trees, fly back up, and plough down the other side 100 turns at a time in snow knee-deep and sparkling like diamonds. This is the kind of skiing,

each day different, that will

make Ste-Foy a household

name, even though this is the first season the resort has ever made a full winter appearance in any British brochure. Ste-Foy is ideally placed for skiing

Tignes, La Plagne, and Les Arcs - all in a one-day circuit. Its own skiing, on piste, is limited and tame enough for children. And much of its offpiste is pitched perfectly for teaching adults how to ski

Local officials stress that no further development will be permitted in Ste-Foy. The re-

unproomed snow.

from

sort itself consists of a score of houses, mostly ancient structures incorporating the area's unique stone columns. The most impressive of them is the Colonnes, a farmhouse dating from the 1700s and now a character restaurant with exceptional terrine. The Ski Company (0171-559

8585) introduces Ste-Foy this vear and Yellowstone Chalet - in my opinion the loveliest chalet in the Alps - in a programme that includes two professional guides and van.

and see a lot more for less



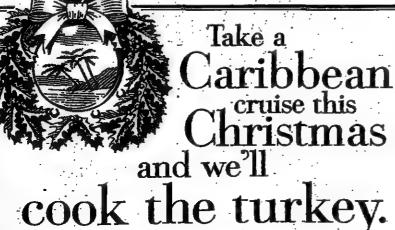
### WEBWORLD

AS THE Microsoft magnate Bill Gates didn't hesitate to tell Jacques Chirac recently. France is way behind the rest of the world on the Internet.

My survey of the top 15 French resorts shows only four with independent Web sites, way behind Switzerland and Austria. All French resorts, however, appear on the official marketing site. Ski France (http://www.skifrance .fr), which presents piste maps, accommodation and the opportunity to reserve rooms and hire skis - in English, Ski France also posts snow reports and links, in

French, to the weather service. All independent resort sites are works in progress, but all offer English versions. Cha-monix (http://www.chamon ix.com) has the cleanest design. Courchevel (http://www. courchevel.com) lacks a piste map. Val d'Isère (http:// www.val-disere.com) has the most ambitious pages, but surfers who leave out the dash when typing Val d'Isère's URL will be in for a shock. Les Deux Alpes (http://www.les2 alpes.com) has a good photo gallery and online hotel booking.

How better to make use of spare time and the office Internet connection than by booking your ski holiday? The Holiday Store (http://www.frholidaystore.co.uk) has a wealth of information on French holidays year round, including the brochures of 13 ski operators and basic resort facts. Among the few specialist operators to France with their own Web sites, Flexiski (http://www.flexiski.co.uk) and Meriski (http://www .meriski.co.uk) are the best.



Wake up on Christmas morning to find someone's slipped a tropical island or two into your stocking.

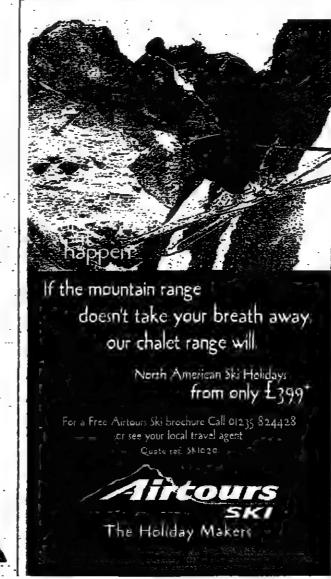
On Christmas Eve you could be anchored off Dominica. On Boxing Day you could gaze on Barbados.

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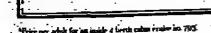
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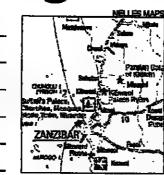


# Reading test for armchair travellers.

محد اس الاصل

Nicole Swengley contacted a dozen travel bookshops to see what they offer

the traveller. The litmus test was whether they could find a map of Zanzibar (right) — which proved to be trickier than you might expect ...



THE ONE place where armchair travellers, package holidaymakers and Amazon explorers are most likely to bump into each other is the travel books hop. A pre-holiday expedition to track down books and guides can be almost as enjoyable as the trip itself.

Our survey of a dozen travel bookshops nationwide found that, while the specialists are better stocked and their staff more knowledgeable, chain stores are

equally prepared to discuss customers' needs on the telephone, and offer a postal service — often just for the cost of postage, and without an extra packing charge. I carried out a telephone test.

calling incognito with a list of questions. First, I asked for a copy of the following three books: Fred Burnaby's classic Victorian travelogue On Horseback Through Asia Minor (reprinted in 1996 by OUP; Yemen: Travels in

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Basement\_THE REST OF THE WORLD

Dictionary Land, by Tim Mackintosh-Smith (John Murray, 1997k and Alexander Frater's Chasing the Monsoon (reprinted in paperback last year by Penguin/Viking), for which I have been searching unsuccessfully in high street chains.

Next, I asked for a map of Zanzibar, which is notoriously hard to find. Only three of the bookshops contacted were able to provide one. Lastly, I asked for advice about a

book covering Greek island-hopping. I asked whether the assistant recommended Lonely Planet's Greece or The Blue Guide er was there a better choice? I was hoping they would suggest Thomas Cook's useful volume Greek Island Hopping.
Below are the results of my

quest. The star ratings — up to five — were awarded for stock carried, the friendliness of staff and helpful advice given.



Acre. WC2 (0171-836 1321). Airways Shop. 156 Regent Street. WI (0171-434 4744). and at Campus Travel, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, SWI (0171-730 1314).

Open: Mon 10am-6pm, Tues-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 10am-7pm. Established in 1852, Stanfords nance Survey and Admiralty

map in print, and recom-mended Greek Island Hopping. "It's updated annually

M DILLONS, 82 Gower Street, WI (0171-636 1577).

busy basement. Good selec-

DAUNT BOOKS

ames Daunt, a former banker, set up his bookstore in J 1990 when he spotted a gap in the market for a shop that grouped background reading — novels, history, food—alongside travel guides and reference books. "There's no logic to the layout in many bookshops," he says. "A biography of De Gaulle is in the biography section and a history of postwar France is in the history section. At Daunts, they're next to each other."

He claims that Daunt Books, which carries 25,000 new and second-hand titles, is Britain's only purpose-built bookstore. It was built in 1910 originally to house an antiquarian bookshop. A glass roof admits natural light to three floors with gallery-style display areas.

Books are grouped by continent, then country, in clearly laid-out sections. Each section contains guides, maps, travelogues, novels, biographies, histories and books on architecture, cookery, politics, art, anthropology and gardening. A good selection of out-of-print books, a vast back-list and an efficient computerised mail-order service account for sales of about 100,000 books annually.

Book launches are held roughly every fortnight. Readings and signings take place occasionally.Celebrity customers include Michael Palin, Ronnie Wood, Michael Caine and Bob Hoskins.

Shoppers are left to browse in peace. Annotated lists are supplied free for a particular country on request. "We are very opinionated and will say whether we think a book is any good or not." Mr Daunt says. In fact, the service goes way beyond this. An American lady rang from Cornwall saying she'd forgotten which B&B she'd booked. "We were able to locate it.

■ Daunt Books. 83 Marylebone High Street, London WI (0171-224 2295). Smaller, sister shop at 193 Haverstock Hill, NW3 (0171-794 4006).

Rating: \*\*\* Open: 9am-7.30pm, Mon-Sat

Test: A helpful assistant was familiar with the books I requested. The Yemen book was out of stock but could be with them in "a couple of days". I was referred to Stanfords in London for the map. The Rough Guide and Cadogan's Guide to the Greek Islands were recommended. Mail order: Postage by weight; no packing charge.

literature; big map section. Test: Burnaby's book out of stock: the other two in stock. A polite but resigned assistant referred me to Stanfords in London for the map. I was told that the Lonely Planet book was the most popular for Greece but it was out of stock. The Rough Guide to Greece was recommended and I was also offered Greek Island

Hopping.
Mail order: No standard charges. P&p on weight.

■ NOMAD BOOKS, 781 Fullmin Road, SWo (0171-736 4000).

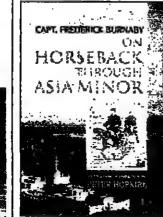
Rating: \*\* Open: Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Sat Юат-брт, Sun Ham-5pm. Guides mixed with travel writing and other books relating to the country.

Test: Frater's book on order at time of calling; other two were out of stock but orders would arrive "in a couple of days". No Zanzibar map. A friendly assistant offered to order the books and recommended Greek Island Hopping. on weight. No packing charge.

OUTSIDE LONDON

BIACKWELLS, 50 Broad Street, Oxford (0)865 792792). Rating: Open: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm (Tues 9.30am). Sun Ham-Spm.

A 120-year-old family business. Main shop stocks travel writing. Map & Travel Shop at 53 Broad Street stocks about 15,000 titles, half guides, half maps, grouped by continent,



country. Worldwide map-ordering service. Test: Burnaby and Mackintosh-Smith books in stock. ordered from the USA - "six to eight weeks". I was referred to Stanfords in London for the map. Recommended Greek

island Hopping.

Mail order: £1.75 p&p for one paperback; £2.75 p&p for up to three paperbacks by first class post in UK. £2.75 p&p by Securicor in the UK. HEFFERS, 20 Trinity

Street, Cambridge (01223 568521): 19 Sidney Street, Cambridge (01223 568467). Rating: \*\*\* Open: Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm, Sun Ham-5pm, Travel writing and huge number of guides stocked at Trintold me that no map of Zanzibar was available in the UK. She recommended Greek Island Hopping, which was out of stock, but could be ordered "in two days' time". Mail order: P&p charge de-pends on weight.

Test: An assistant rook my list and rang back 30 minutes later to say the literature was POWNEY'S stocked at Trinity Street. She BOOKSHOP, 4 & 5 St had no Zanzibar map but did recommend Greek Island Alkmund's Piace, Shrewsbury (01743 369165). Hopping. A second call to Rating: \* other requests were in stock. Mail order: £1.55 p&p per kg Open: Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm. General bookstore with large travel section comprising half maps, half guides. Books are to UK destinations.

Open: Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm. About a third of this general

clude some travelogues. wholesaler; ten days from the publisher". A helpful assistant





Daunt Books in Marylebone was purpose-built and has a computerised mail-order service for sales of about 100,000 books a year

grouped by country with fairly good choice of guides. Some

travel writing.

Test: An assistant took my

requests and returned three

minutes later to say none was

in stock and that there was no

Zanzibar map. For Greek island-hopping, she recom-mended an Eye Witness guide

if you want pictures, al-

though it's too large to carry

around", or a Baedeker's

Greek Islands guide. Neither

Lonely Planet's Greece nor the

Mail order: Small packing

Blue Guide were in stock.

charge, plus postage.

ity Street branch. Maps (tour-ist, foreign and whole Ordnance Survey range), accommodation guides, street atlases and some other books stocked at Sidney Street.

MAUSTICKS, 91 The Headrow, Leeds (0113 2439607). Rating:

bookstore is devoted to travel. Good selection of maps and a reasonable choice of guides. Books are grouped by continent, then country, and in-Test: The Yemen book was in stock. Burnaby's book was not, but could be ordered "in three days". Frater's book would take "three days from a

Semerang, Bali, Darwin, Cairns, Brisbane & Sydney ruise from Genoa via the ports indicated to Australia on board the first-class Swiss-managed MS Switzerland, disembarking at either Dawin, Cairns, Brishane or Sydney and at a fraction of the normal tariff. This has been made possible by the Two for the Price of One' offer made by the Swiss operators and has resulted in prices ranging from as little as £52 per night.
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excursions available on board.

at a tariff unlikely to be repeated.

on the MS Switzerland

0171-6161000 fitness centre, library, casino, swimming pool, beauty parlour and reception. The vessel, constructed by Swan Hunter and renovated in 1991 and again in 1996, draws a draft of 28ft and is

insert. She even told me the Two-storey bookstore, not as scale of the insert. Mail order: postage depends on weight; no packing charge big as London branch but has similar range (if not quantity) DILLONS, 24 St Ann's continent, then country, with affiliated subjects like such as Square, Manchester (0161-832 0424). cooking alongside guides. Sections for travel writing, climb-Rating: ★ 🛧 ing, cycling, geology. Test: All the travel writing was Open: Mon-Fri 9am-7pm (Thurs 8pm), Sat 9am 6pm. in stock. An assistant recom-A flagship store, Dillons has

dedicated Zanzibar map exist-

ed but that Nelles' Tanzania

map included a good Zanzibar

Continued on facing page

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■ STANFORDS, 29 Corn Street, Bristol (0117 9299966).

Rating: \*\*\*
Open: Mon-Sat 8.30am-opm

of stock. Books grouped by

mended Cadogan's Greek is-

land-hopping guide and rang

(Tues 9.30am).

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Alt Constitution



Rating: \*\*

claims to be the world's largest map shop, with more than 30,000 titles, including Ordcharts. Strong on travel guides and books on mountaineering, walking, sea travel. Test: All three books in stock A helpful assistant told me he

wasn't aware of a Zanzibar and is written by someone who lives there," he said. Mail order: £2.50 p&p for paperbacks; £3.25 p&p for hardbacks in UK.

Rating: \*\* Open: Mon-Fri 9am-7pm (Tues 9.30am), Sat 9.30amбрт, Sun пооп-брт.

Five-storey shop with travelrelated books (language, cul-ture, food) in different sections. Travel books are in a tion of travel guides and

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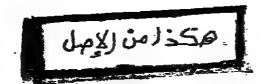
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### On the road through the ages

volumes as Bill Bryson's wisecracking British tour. Notes From A Small Island, or Lonely Planet's latest offering, Walking in Britain. But books from an earlier

era are still worth taking on journeys, even if they are long out of date. In particular, Daniel Defoe, Samuel Johnson and William Cobbett left a remarkable legacy.

Their separate journeys took place at 50-year intervals — Defoe in the 1720s, Johnson in the 1770s and Cobbett in the 1820s. Each journey became an opinionated, best-selling travel book. Taken together, they form an offbeat series that can show modern travellers how places once looked and convey how they once felt

The idea of travelling Britain for pleasure was only just catching on when Defoe wrote A Tour Through the Whole island of Great Britain, a kind of Rough Guide for the Georgian Age. The ex-soldier, spy, businessman and author of Robinson Crusoe and Moll Flanders was 62 in 1722 when he retraced some of the journeys of his younger days — and cribbed material from other sources — to begin "a description of the most flour-ishing and opulent country in the world".

In 1773, at the age of 63, Dr Johnson set out with his friend James Boswell on what became his Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland, with an idea of "going where no-body goes and seeing what nobody sees".

In Inverness, Johnson noted how many people were still barefoot. For him, this was the last place with regular coach communication, and he had to hire a horse to head west, travelling light as a man "content to leave behind him everything but himself".

All recent travel improvements — the canals, the turnpike roads, the stagecoaches and later the railways - were disliked by the cantankerous, radical former Sergeant-Ma-

Then it comes to travel jor Cobbett, who saw the guides to Britain, we growth of towns and cities destroying rural England.

In 1822, at the age of 60, he began four years of Rural Rides, cherishing the countryside and championing the poor. While we might value the beauty and peace of Windsor Great Park, for Cobbett, enclosures, country houses and gardens in the area "have beggared 20 agricultural villages and hamlets" and made Windsor Forest "as bleak, as barren and as villanous a heath as ever man set his eyes

A century later, younger men were writing the classics that form a direct link to our own age. J.B. Priestley was 39 when he climbed aboard the new-langled motorcoaches for his shrewd English Journey in

George Orwell, the natural successor to Cobbett, was 33 when he worked his way through the industrial heartlands in 1936 for The Road to Wigan Pier, before leaving to fight in the Spanish Civil War.

Derhaps the best travels work as a kind of farewell tour, where the completed journey also completes something in the travel-ler. At 44, Bryson wrote his railway tour of Britain before moving to his native America.

He now lives in New England (well, somebody has to). But at least he is able to finish his book by saying with some certainty: "I turned from the gate and got in the car and knew without doubt that I

 Notes From A Small Island, Bill Bryson (Black Swan, £6.99); Walking in Britain (Lonely Planet, £11.99); A Tour Through the Whole Island of Britain. Daniel Defoe (Penguin, £9,99); Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland, Samuel Johnson (Penguin, E6.99); Rurai Rides, William Cobbe (Penguin, £7.50); English Journey, J.B. Priestley (Mandarin, £7.99); The Road to Wigan Pier, George Orwell (Penguin

DAVID WILSON

S arah Anderson, owner of The Travel Bookshop, tells a story of two of her customers staring at the Central Asian bookshelves, then turning to each other and saying: "Didn't I meet you on the Slik Route?"

The encounter sums up the atmosphere and clientele in this browserfriendly shop, in style like an oldfashioned country-house library. The cosy interior is kitted out with kilims and stencilled walls that are lined, floor to ceiling, with wooden bookshelves. No surprise, then, that it has become

something of a travellers' rendezvous. When Ms Anderson opened her bookshop in 1979, the idea of stocking fiction, history, geology and culture alongside guidebooks and maps was new. And with the explosion of guides and reprints, she says it is impossible to

"It's the mix that's important. We aim to embrace the whole subject, but we're

### THE TRAVEL SOOKSHOP

careful in choosing. Out-of-print and secondhand books — "people still like hardbacks" — include travel literature from the mid-19th century onwards, including classic voyages and explora-tions, original Baedeker's and Murray's guides. It is also a good place to look for collectors' items such as Stanley's two-volume first edition of In Darkest Africa.

Regular events include book launches, promotions and signings by the likes of Michael Palin, Gavin Young Eric Newby, and Dervia

Shoppers include locals, out-of-town travellers, students, hippies, yuppies, film location folk, armchair explorers and writers including Colin Thubron. Geoffrey Moorhouse, Miles Kington, Charles Glass and Dea Birkett. As for service: "Someone rang from Majorca and said he hadn't got the correct maritime charts, so we faxed information on harbour depths via satellite to his bout," says Ms Anderson.

This autumn the shop goes on the Internet (orders by credit card) with a short description of most of the books stocked. Check if out at: www.thetravel kshop.demon.co.uk.

■ The Travel Bookshop, 13-15 Blen-heim Crescent, Wil (0171-229 5260) Rating \*\*\*

Open: 10am-6pm, Mon-Sat Test: Had Burnaby's book. Other two out of stock, with orders taking "a couple of days". They had a Zanzibar map. A friendly assistant told me to buy Greek Island Hopping. "The Blue Guide is like Pevsner," she warned. Mail order: Postage depends on weight:

oin our mid-summer passage from Aberdeen to Spitsbergen aboard the 'Professor Molchanov' on a voyage which will take us beyond the Arctic Circle to the extraordinary island of Jan Mayen and on to Spitsbergen.

just a few hundred miles short

of the North Pole.

Along the way we will call into Britain's remotest inhabited island, Fair Isle and continue north to the beautiful Faroes. Our next landfall sighting will be the harsh landscape of Bear Mountain on the Norwegian Island of Jan Mayen. This amazing volcanic island is uninhabited but for a few scientists and sits in the Arctic Ocean hundreds of miles from its nearest neighbour, Greenland. Stepping onto Jan Mayen is a great privilege as you cannot help but appreciate the raw and unrouched landscape which is totally devoid of man's influence. Whale bones, anemones growing amongst the lava and little auks nesting on the steep mossy slopes

Sailing in a north-easterly direction we will reach Spitsbergen after two days at sea and sail into Isligid for a day of exploration.

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Public areas include a lounge/bar. library, chnic, sauna and an open bridge. The hearty and excellent meals supervised by European staff are served in two dining rooms. There are large open decks and with only a maximum of just over 50 passengers, the vessel even when full has a peaceful and roomy atmosphere.

Looking after the day to day programme on board will be the expedition leader and his team. There will be no formal entertainment, but the expedition team will organise briefings and talks and the library will be equipped with a good selection of reading and board/card games.

For our forays ashore we will use the vessel's Zodiac craft allowing us great flexibility and enabling us to reach otherwise inaccessible places with great ease. This is a voyage undertaken in the spirit of discovery. with a view to making your experience an extraordinary one.



The Itinerary Day 1 Aberdeen. Embark in the late afternoon and sail. Day 2 Fair Isle. The most isolated settlement in the British Isles. Visit the bird observatory, famous for its work in tracking the movement of migrant birds (there Is always the chance of a fall of mugrants, anything from a redspotted bluethroat to a red-footed falcon).

Days 3 &r 4 The Faroes. With our two days of exploration we will start on the most southerly of the Faroes, the island of Suduroy. Here there are lovely walks, dramatic cliffs and charming villages. On Mykines, surely the most beautiful of all the Faroes you can walk out to Lundaland, 'land of the puffins' a staggeringly beautiful area and explore the village of Mykines, a quaint collection of bright, turf-rooled houses.

Days 5 &t 6 At sea. Day 7 Jan Mayen. Explore Walrus Bay and the surrounding area and later cruise along the cliffs to the north by Zodiac. Here large populations of seabirds nest in bizzarly shaped cliffs of volcanic ash layers that have been carved and eroded by the wind and the waves to form lantastic shapes and caves.

Days 8 & 9 At sea. Day 10 Spitsbergen. Today we will cruse the Ishord sailing past the Russian settlement at Barentsburg and exploring the area. In the evening we will moor in Longyearbyen for an overnight stay. Day 11 Longyearbyen to London. Early morning departure by Scandinavian

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Continued from page 24 reading areas with solas. A third of the first floor is devoted to travel. Guides are grouped by country with sections for maps and travel writing. Test I was asked for the

books' ISBN numbers, which I didn't have. The assistant made a meal out of checking one computer programme for the numbers, then trying another to see if the books were in stock. I was put on hold for several minutes while he checked the shelves. Only the Frater book was in stock. I was told the others would take ten days to two weeks. No Zanzibar map. I was recommended the Rough Guide or Lonely Planet's Greece. Mail order: Postage depends on weight; no packing charge.



JAMES THIN, 53-59 South Bridge, Edinburgh (0131-556 6743). Rating: \*\* Open: Mon-Fri 9am-10pm, Sat 9am-5\_30pm, and

ahon Sunday from 11am-5pm. The flagship store of this family-owned company, which has 17 bookshops in Scotland, is housed in a fourstorey Victorian building. The ground-floor travel area stocks guides, maps and travel writing. Affiliated subjects are available in dedicated sections elsewhere. Travel books are also stocked at its other Edinburgh branch at 57

George Street.

Test: I gave my list and the assistant rang back ten minutes later to say that only the Yemen book was in stock. The others would take two weeks to order. No Zanzibar map, but I was offered Nelles" Tanzania map (which has the Zanzibar insert). The Rough Guide was recommended for Greece - "no pictures but lots



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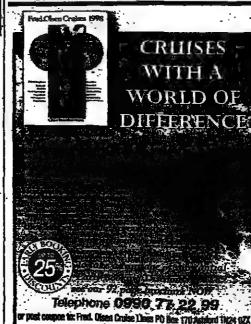
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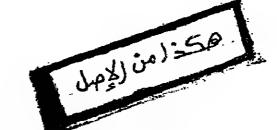
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### Brian Pedley boards the Royal Mail postbus for a leisurely tour of the Staffordshire moors

# t Onecute in Staffordshire the villagers tell how a farmer, returning one night from market at nearby Leek, was plucked from the ground by a headless horseman. The horse took flight over drystone walls and fields. Hours later, the hapless rustic was dumped, quivering with terror, by his farm gate.

These days, the same 80-mile circular tour of the Staffordshire moors is covered less stressfully by the Royal Mail postbus. The twice-daily ride is also a good deal more entertaining. Dave, John, Paul, ken and Debbie, the drivers, take no risks, particularly in the brutal winters. Then, the little red bus goes equipped with blankets, hot flasks and Kendal Minr Cake.

Today, as usual, the Il-seater vehicle rattles out of Leek and down a switchback of country lanes through Staffordshire's Best Kept. Village of Warslow. An elderly gardener waves from among his magnificently flowering runner beans. His cottage quickly vanishes behind the brow of the hill as Postman Dave drops a gear for a tortuous downhill stretch. Almost immediately we are climbing

# The buses were meant as a lifeline to rural communities, but now backpacks can outnumber the shopping baskets

again. Ahead of us, almost bumping their heads against the clouds, are the white limestone and dark gritstone crags of the southern Peak District, the National Park which contains a third of the Staffordshire moorland as it rises and falls between villages and farmsteads.

"Better than a ride at Alton Towers," says Dave, nudging the gear stick up into third.

Adapted as a public transport service 30 years ago, Royal Mail postbuses now carry 125,000 passengers a year on 228 routes in Britain. Originally they were intended as a lifeline to rural communities, but nowadays backpacks sometimes outnumber the shopping baskets. With mail to collect, the routes may not be the quickest, but they certainly tend towards the scenic — and thanks to Postman Pat the Postbuses have even assumed a modest glargour.

# High days on the post trail



Something to write home about: passengers prepare to board the postbus at the Royal Oak Inn at Wetton, headquarters of the World Toe Wrestling Championships

From the windows of Dave's bus, his passengers can enjoy the slow beat of Staffordshire farm life. Shadows race across the medieval patchwork of green fields and golden stubble as thick clouds whip across the August sky. The threat of thunder adds a hint of urgency to the harvest, where squadrons of crows gorge on the insects fleeing the combine harvesters.

We pass the great hump of Ecton Hill where, until the last century, more than 300 miners toiled to meet half the world's demand for

meet half the world's demand for copper. Margaret, a retired schoolmistress, was enjoying her weekly trip to Leek. "You get three hours there, which is quite long enough for people to do most of their shopping," she said, passing Dave a letter for posting. "And the hikers can be fun... With any luck you get to sit on a some strong young man's knee."

Leek, with its ornate buildings and cobbled marketplace, is justly nicknamed "The Queen of the Moorlands". Go there on a Wednesday, market day, and the rows of stalls run six deep, selling everything from country jackets to Country & Western CDs. In the covered butter market next door, one trader has the most sumptuous

stock of "nursery food" to be seen outside a House of Commons dining room. The stall creaked under bubble & squeak, spotted dick, jam roly-poly and Bakewell tart. In Leek market, and along the cobbled alleyways, every baker worthy of the name sells freshly griddled oatcakes. One shop, Asplins, does ten fillings. Cooked thin like crepes, but chewier, they pre-date pizzas as the traditional

last food of Stuffordshire.

Leek's architecture reflects its great days as a 19th-century silk capital and as a centre of the Arts and Crafts movement led by the artist designer, poet and politician

William Morris. The baroque, copper-domed Nicholson Institute, which houses the public library and the arts and science college, is one of many prized buildings that survive from Leek's golden age.

ven the street furniture bears the stamp of Morris. Where else are public seats designed to look like strutting peacocks?

If Leek is Queen, then

If Leek is Queen, then Hartington, just across the border in Derbyshire, is Princess. When the postbus stops here, Margaret's hikers tend to get off and follow the paths south to Dovedale. Others

The joy of riding the postbus is its flexibility. A few stops on, at Grindon, I leave Dave and his passengers to return to Leek and strike out into the great limestone gorge of the Manifold, valley. To

Mentiold Dove
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Ashbourne

FACT FILE

Brian Pedley travelled with
Staffordshire Moorlands Tourism
Department (01538 483741). For a
visitors' guide, write to: 1 Market Place,
Leek, Staffordshire STI3 SHH. The

the official guide to Leek, and a seif-guided William Morris Town Trail.

The Royal Mail Postbus leaves Leek bus station twice daily at 10,20am and 2,53pm. The round trip takes

ourist information office also produ

M Where to stay: Lee House Farm.
Leek Road, Waterhouses, near Leek,
Staffs ST10 3HW (01538 308439). An
18th-century house in the Peak District
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Bank House, Farley Lane, Oakamoor, Staffs ST10 3BD (01538 702810), run by Muriel Orme, the AA's Landlady of the Year in 1996. B&B from £20 per person.

follow the path to the valley floor is to be swallowed whole, first by meadows dusted pink with napweed, then by woods that grow darker with the descent. Through overhanging beeches comes the first glimpse of Thor's Cave, high on the peak that forms one side of the valley. The people of the Dark Ages named it after the Norse god of thunder because of the strong winds that boom and howl through its vast mouth. Now it echoed to the excited squeals of a pack of Brownies that had disappeared inside.

Wetton, another of the postbus stops, is just a short stroll from the cave. Its Royal Oak Inn is head-quarters of the World Toe Wrestling Championships, held each June. Revived in 1994 with sponsorship from Scholl, toe wrestling is urousing interest as far away as Japan. The sport is similar to arm wrestling and, regulars would have us believe, exceedingly ancient.

"Cave drawings at Ecton Hill clearly show two men locking toes for the favours of a Neolithic lady," insists landlord George Burgess, drawing a pint. I had a suspicion that I was being taken for a ride — but it was far more entertaining than being taken for a ride by a headless horseman.

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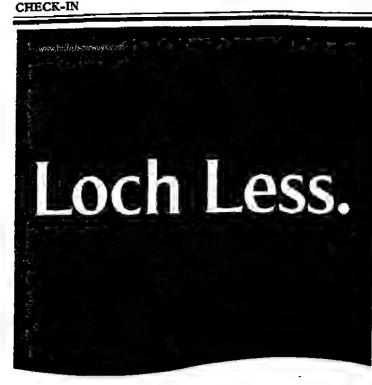
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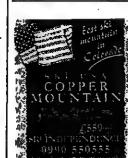
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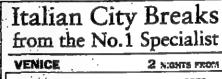
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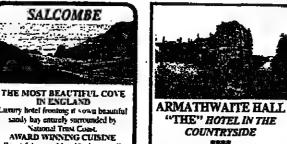


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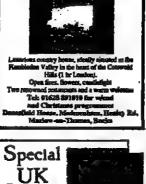
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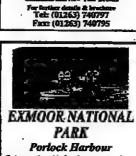
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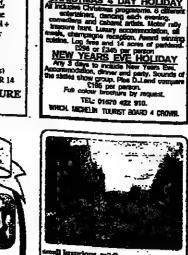


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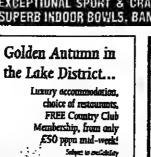
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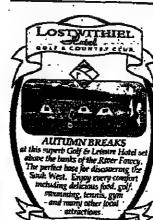
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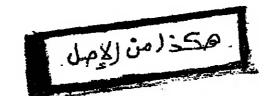


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### **AROUND THE WORLD** A WEEKEND GUIDE

# Quay to catastrophe



Most of the British tourists on board the *Romantica*, above, bought their trips while in Cyprus and can make no claim for compensation in the UK

ritish tour operators are legally distancing themselves from passengers booked on the ill-fated cruise ship that caught fire off Cyprus last weekend. The 103 Britans who were aboard the Romantica are waiting for details of compensation to be offered from the ship's owners, Med

Duchess Lines. But it appears that none of them are booked the cruise through an operator before ine UK. And iev any, booked through a UK operator representative in Limassol, instead preferring to

book direct at the quayside. People are attracted to such deals by prices as low as £50 per person, squeezing costs to the bone and cutting out the mark-up of the tour operator.

British holiday companies, including market leader Steve Keenan explains why tour operators are giving a wide berth to passengers caught up in a cruise ship fire

Thomson Holidays, say their customers are only entitled to pursue any compensation or damages claim through the UK courts if they booked the cruise with them. Thirteen of the Britons on the cruise ship had booked their holiday to Cyprus through Thomson but they had paid for the cruise for the company.

"We are responsible for something we actually recom-mend. But if someone chooses to book off their own bat, that is where the line is drawn."

Libra Holidays — which was to feature the Romantica this winter for the first time also had eight clients on board who booked direct. Andreas Drakou, Libra's managing di-rector, said: "I don't think the ing in Cyprus in recent years.
This year, more than 50,000 rules cover people who book in. the resort."

Tamsin Carnall, legal adviser at the Association of British Travel Agents, added: "If you book through a tour operator in the UK, you have recourse to English law. If you book in

with a local company." Many of those rescued will be covered for loss of possessions through their own insurance. But those not covered, or dissatisfied with any compensation offered, are likely to have to fight their case in a Greek court. The Romantica

was Cypriot-flagged. The blaze highlighted the

JILL CRAWSHAW'S CHRISTMAS ABROAD

by UK tour operators, most passengers booked direct. huge rise in popularity - and the risks involved - of cruis-

Britons are expected to take a

variety of short cruises from the island, the biggest market

sector for cruise companies

ahead of the fast-emerging

to Haifa in Israel, Port Said in

Egypt, or a three-night combi-

nation of the two, which the Romantica was doing.

Industry expert Tony Peis-ley said: "Cyprus offers a chance to see another country

such as Egypt at dirt-cheap prices. That is why a lot of the

Peter Adamou, box manag-

ships are fairly basic."

Russian market.

suffering from a shoddy imthe age of the ships. It is how

er for another Limassol-based cruise company. Louis Cruise Lines, said his company expected to carry 46,000 Britons this year. Although featured

He denied that the market is age. "It is not connected with much work is carried out on them and how much is spent."

### Joanna Hunter tracks down this week's holiday deals; and Alex McWhirter finds the cheapest flights



☐ British Airways Holidays (0990 224224) is offering sevonly, at the Silver Sands Resort Hotel on the south coast of Barbados, from £499, including return flights from Gatwick, taxes, trans-fers, and transfer flights from UK regional airports. Departures Wednesday (October 15) and Thursday.

☐ Stretch your legs on Acom Activities (01432 830083) Walking Week in the Brecon Bea-cons from October 18-25. Seven nights' full-board accommodation at Brecon's Castle Hotel plus the services of a guide costs £350. ☐ Follow the ancients

through the Aegean with Seafarer (0171-234 0500). Its seven-night Voyage of Dis-covery leaves Athens on October 17 and sails to Alexandria, Port Said, Ashdod and Kusadasi, finally docking in Istanbul. Fares start at £449pp. including flights from Gatwick or Manchester, transfers, taxes, full board, lectures and entertainment.

☐ The first Pumpkin Festival in Picardie, France, begins on October 12. Picardie Pauses (0171-836 2232) offers two nights accommodation for the price of one and Hoverspeed return crossing from Dover to Calais: from E71 for two.

☐ Popping out for a kebab could acquire a whole new allure. Fourteen nights' selfDepartures: Monday October 13 to Saturday October 18 Lowest available published fares for return travel.

from £58 Essy) (ex-Luton) from £98 Easyje (ex-Luson) from £138 from £59 Rys from £99 Ryanali from £109 Ryanair £396 BA £844 BA £992 BA £59mw/£69w (ex-Gatwick) £238 BA. from £178 Debona from £138 Debons

Debonair: 0500 146200 Easylet: 0990 292929 air: 0541 569569

Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published ilability is not gue Fares shown do not include any applicable taxes or security fees.

> catering at the Esin studio apartments in Marmaris on Turkey's Aegean coast with Holidays 701000, departing Gatwick, castle or Glasgow on Monday (October 13), costs £252 including flights, taxes and transfers.

Amsterdam Travel Services (01242 260960) is offering a Manchester, Newfamily of four one night's B&B accommodation at the Efteling Hotel, entrance to the Efteling park and return ferry from Ramsgate to Ostend for £72 ☐ Fraught parents should take their charges to Efteling

### CAA calls for passenger levy

THE collapse of Turkish specialist SunTours this week has rekindled demands for a levy on package holidays, to be paid by passengers, to protect them if companies collapse, writes Sieve Keenan. If approved by Parliament, a levy could add up to £10 a head to holiday costs. September and October are the prime

months for tour operator failures as cash flow from last-minute bookings dries up and bills for hoteliers, airlines and other suppliers must be met. Ten of last year's 26 failures were in those two months. The CAA's Air Travel Trust fund, the pool of bond money held to refund and repatriate, was £5.3 million in the red at the end of the year to March 31, 1997.

in Holland, which is the

largest theme park in Europe.

at half-term. It is open until

8pm all week from October 18.

The CAA is looking at a levy, which would need parliamentary approval. Meanwhile, it is continuing to repatriate the 7,000 SunTours customers stranded when it went out of business. The process of refunding 15,000 other customers will then begin. ● CAA: 0171-832-5600

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### TRAVEL

### Going solo in Sweden

IF you are single and aged 30 to 69, Solo's (0181-951 2800) has more than 40 Christmas holidays ranging from golfing in America to traditional hotel breaks in Britain. For the energetic, a Swedish

adventure includes a day's ghtseeing in Stockholm, a ight in an igloo in the village of Jukkasjarvi near Kiruna, a visit to an elk farm and lots of glogg (spicy mulied wine) at a Lapp inn. On Christmas Eve. there is sledging, tobogganing or skiing, as well as a traditional Christmas buffet. On Christmas Day there is

a snowmobile salari to catch lunch ice-fishing and then cook it over an open fire. Dog sledging, cross-country skiing and dancing round off Boxing Day. Departing on December 20, the price of £1,475 covers flights, a week's half-board accommodation, sightseeing and Christmas meals.

### Right tracks for the Rockies



the world's great trains, The Canadian. Great Rail Journeys (01904 679969) is organising a 12-day holiday departing on December 20. The 2,800-mile journey across Canada from Toronto takes three days in your own sleeper, with all meals included. The journey finishes with a stay in Vancouver and two days in Victoria. The cost is

### nights B&B in hotels and sightseeing tours. Holistic days

DISCOS and drinking sprees are out (though local wine is allowed), and the Christmas fare is mainly vegetarian on

£1,390 for flights, three nights

full board on the train, seven



the holistic holidays available from Neal's Yard Agency (07000-783 704). The company specialises in holidays focusing on personal development, meditation and yoga. Groups are limited to about 16 people and there are no single supplements. A two-week break, departing on December 20, to the Caribbean island of Toba-go, offers personal development courses and workshops on life choices and life changes. It costs £755 fullboard, excluding flights.

On a 21-day tour of southern India, travelling from Madras to Bombay and leaving on December 21, holistic holidaymakers can escape the stresses of Christmas by visiting temples and tranquil ashrams with a meditation teacher. The price, including flights and full-board hotel accommodation, is £2,600.

NO tinsel and no turkey, promises Sherpa Expeditions (0181-577 2717) on its 15-day Christmas escape to the "Valley of a Thousand Kasbahs' in Morocco's Sahro range. A Berber guide leads a trek into this rocky wilderness,

with three to seven hours' teed on Wildlife Worldwide's trekking each day. Accommodation is in tents. with three nights in a hotel in Marrakesh. Christmas Day is spent on a seven-hour walk down a river valley, later

### crossing a hot, dusty plain occupied only by nomads and their camels. Disney's party FUN is promised at Disney-

land Paris as it celebrates the finale to its fifth birthday this Christmas, with parades themed on the Nutcracker Suite ballet Leger Holidays (01709 839839) offers a fiveday break departing on De-cember 23, which includes return coach travel, four nights' B&B in the Paris area. a two-day pass to the theme park and an excursion around Paris. It costs £239 for adults. £169 for teenagers 12-16, £149 for children aged three to 11. Under-threes go free.

### Santa sortie

A WHITE Christmas in the company of orca whales, leopard seals. Adelie penguins and pintado petrela is or ar(0181- 667 9158) 12-day voyage to the Antarctic Peninsula, leaving on December 16.

The 80-passenger Marine Adventurer sails through the Beagle Channel and Drake Passage to spend Christmas Day in the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island where it is possible to swim in the thermal waters. A Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa are also promised. The cost is £3,295 for flights, voyage, food and activities, plus \$495 (£315) in port dues.

**EXPERTS** in art. music and archaeology accompany tours organised by Prospect (0181-995 2151). Christmas is one of the rare times to see Venice without all the crowds; Prospect's seven-day tour, leaving on December 22, takes in the city's sights, plus an excursion to Padua to see Giotto's Scrovegni Chapel. The price of £1,050 includes flights, water-taxi transfers. B&B accommodation plus a Christmas hunch.

Next week: Christmas



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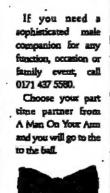
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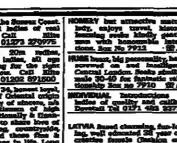
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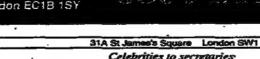
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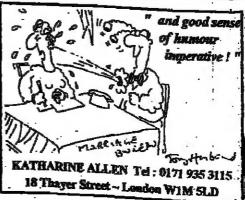




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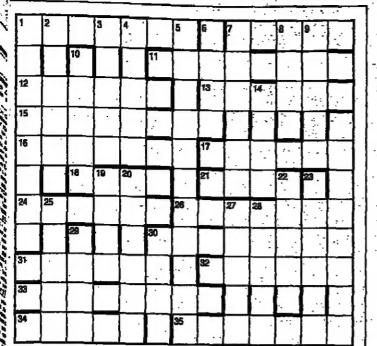
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### THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

### No 3431: Three writers by Mr Lemon



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The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10

height, in the tournaments of San

bowled over his apponents with re-

markable ease, almost irrespective

logic and analysis, there is a tre-

mendous psychological element,

and, one often underestimated or ig-

... nored by the fashionable chess texts

without background information.

the sudden collapse of a strong

player, even with the normally ad-

vantageous white pieces? In the

case of Alekhine, and now with Kasparov, it can be a terrifying pro-

spect sitting across the chessboard,

facing the strongest player in the

world. This tremendous psycholog-

ical strength, evinced by both

Alekhine and Kasparov at their

best, accounts just as much for such

players' superlative performances

against IBM's Deep Blue computer

might also be traced to his psycho-

logical power. Flesh and blood

slayers can be intimidated, silicon

against Deep Blue, Kasparov sim-

ply has to rely on his skill at the

game itself. His fiercely energetic personality would have held no

terrors for the machine. A contrast-

ing case was this week's game

can chess firmament. White was so over-awed by Kasparov's charisma

that he put up no fight at all.

inst a rising star in the Ameri-

Interestingly, Kasparov's failure

as their technical skill.

which simply give reams of moves,

What can be the explanation for

of whether he was playing with White or Black. Chess is not all

Remo 1930 and Bled 1931, Alekhine



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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

champion, has often expressed his admiration for that great genius of attack. Alexander Alekhine. At his would prefer 9 Rel.

9 11 Ba2

natural.

And here Il Bd3 seems more

The imfortunate consequence of his

previous move. Of course. White

cannot push Black's queen's bishop

out of play with 12 d5, on account of

12 . . . Bxc3 winning White's queen.

An unnecessary precaution, 14 0-0

White's list of misdemeanours in

the opening phase of this game is legion. With White's development

incomplete and the centre fluid,

this wing strike is entirely inappro-

priate. Black can easily block the

further advance of White's pawn

15 ... h5 16 Bg5 Rte8 17 Rc1 Bb7 18 d5

White now dreams of following up

with c4, cementing his centre and trading queens. However, Kasp-

aroy does not give him time for this

A colossal blunder to cap his

previous inept play. White had to put his queen on a safer square

though even 20 Qc2 Na3 or 20 Qd3

Ba6 are highly uncomfortable.

Ne5 19 Bb1 Nc4

Nd7 13 Ne2 Rd8

11 ... Bc6 12 Bd3

at once is stronger.

14 ... 0-0 15 64

and promptly does so.

luxury.

20 ....Be5

18 ... 20 Q14

GARRY KASPAROV, the world -9 Rb1

ONE or more letters have to be omitted from the answer to each clue before it is entered in the

grid. Definitions are to the full word, subsidiary indications to the grid entry. Numbers in brackets always refer to the grid entry.

The single letter omitted from each of 32 answers in clue order describe the approach of the THREE WRITERS, the remaining five clues drop a hint as to style. Chambers (1993) is

Two of the THREE WRITERS are unclued, solvers should find and highlight the third.

- ACROSS Routine clerks can be self-assertive people
- Separate exercise in plain (5) Sea-water's bad for birds (8)
- Scotsman returns to take on Richard the Covenanter (6)
- Song about king's skin colour (6) Raps having no king among high cards (8)
- Cable revised preview with report's introduction for Vatican (7) Silver matrix absent in molten rocks (6)
- Plaster of Paris ships in fashion (4) Expects kisses (4)
- The President once a cutter of wood? (6)
- Tension doesn't begin to relieve worry (7)
- flasks (6)
- Old Tories excited harborer (8) Estaminets keep a bit of Riesling inside

HII STA LCATT HAS

A S A E TE R B O O BY

UMBREYOMWPUE

GWTMEWPSYCHO

OON ROPINES'S

OUNTER I I CHA

L L ANCESA

OTCHCATAGNA

NUTHATCHCOIN

THE race is on to improve security

on the Internet, and software

developers who come up with the

most widely adopted security sys-

Security poses two questions for home users. How safe is personal

information in e-mails? And how

safe are credit card details in

When it comes to confidentiality.

few things beat real letters sent in

sealed envelopes. But on the

Internet, e-mails are dispatched to

oblivion, 9.999 times out of ten

reaching their destination — a

cyberspace pigeonhole - with lightning speed. But we cannot be

sure that no one else has read them.

After all, this is the age of the

sophisticated hacker, who can find

his or her way into most places,

including corporate bank accounts

and government departments —

the security of credit card transac-

tions over the World Wide Web is

the latest poser for the chattering

Many goods and services can

already be purchased online, usu-

ally by entering your credit card

details. Some traders have staff

standing by to take such details on

a voice number if you are worried.

In the past six months I have made

computing classes.

tems will make a killing.

cyberspace?

E E N R E D P O L L

Rapid eye movement timer worked by heart Councillor has pouch for a fox (5)

32 Warning sounds as golf shot goes outside

centre of belt (6)

Torpedo goes around during brief constant measure of emission (?)

### DOWN

- Aphrodite's fluorescent salt (6) Listen to inside of male's chest (5)
- Old courtesy one finally gets to see in France
- Singer drew grebes swimming round lake
- Calls for woman's work basket (4) Scraper is brought up round block to stop
- Fort with exterior of round building stone (4)
- Club price is cut at last (5)
- German follows one big awkward girl a truly monstrous bird! (5) They keep the rain off school piano (4)
- Heartless group of teachers forged paper (4)
- Season in charge of the moon (6)
- Yes! Forward's foot slipped back (5)
- Leaders of profession mostly chosen to
- Terribly drear worshipper (5)
- Went for a swim in the Tay thereupon grandchild died (5)
- As an example Prokofiev's sister exercised at
- first in judo costume (5) 29
- Stifles restraints figuratively speaking (4)
  A swelling that is difficult to deal with (4)

### Solution and notes for No 3428: Snags by Columba

Extra and ommitted letters gave THE LADY VANISHES, VERTIGO, FRENZY and THE BIRDS. These, and the entries PSYCHO, MARNIE, SABOTEUR and ROPE, were films directed by Alfred Hitchcock. His custom of making brief appearances in his films was reflected by the oblique (ie, slanting) appearance in the grid of his surname, indicated as a snag (HITCH) with one of the birds (COCK). -

The winner is Mrs Janet Ferris of Leeds, Yorkshire. The runners up are Clive Thompson of Sheffield, Yorkshire; Brenda J. Widger of Altrincham, Cheshire; Mike Gates of Sydenham, London; Dr P.A.K. Covey-Crump of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; D.A.T. Millar of Beflast, Northern Ireland.

### BRIDGE

### by Robert Sheehan

FOLLOW AN expert's thinking on this hand:

N = - + KB42 E ▼J932 ♥KQ85 ·K5 **+AKQJ42** 

Contract: Five Clubs by West. Lead; the eight of diamonds This was the bidding, with West

the dealer, vulnerable against not at rubber bridge:

1 S Pass 4 S All Pass 1 NT Pass Pass 3 S 4 D

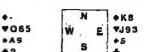
What is your plan? You have six tricks in clubs, two in diamonds. and two in hearts. An eleventh trick will be easy enough if clubs are two-two—you will be able to ruff a diamond in dummy. So the first move after winning the diamond king is to draw a round of trumps.

South shows out, discarding a

diamond. Now what? It seems the most likely explanation of South's Four Diamond bid is that he has six or more diamonds. So playing for a diamond ruff won't work now - North will be able to ruff high in front of dummy. You draw the remainder of North's trumps, and play an extra round for the lurkers. South's four discards are the seven and ten of diamonds and two spades, and North discards a spade. How do

you think the hearts lie? If North has four you can pick up the suit by leading the king and queen. But can North have four hearts? No - he must have at least five spades, and has shown up with four clubs and one diamond. That means the only player who can

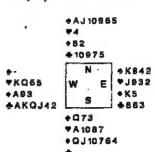
hold four hearts is South. You lay down the king of hearts. hoping South will win if he has the ace. But the king of hearts holds. That leaves this position:



You continue with a low heart to the jack, on which North discards a spade. South has to take the jack with the ace, or else you can lead back towards the queen. He wins and exits with the queen of

diamonds. Do you see what is happening? Everyone is down to four cards and South has to keep a winning diamond and two hearts. You play off your last trump, discarding a

spade from dummy. To keep those three key red cards South has to discard a spade, and so you exit with the nine of diamonds. At trick twelve South has to lead from the ten-eight of hearts to give you the last two tricks. You have brought off a "strip squeeze". The full deal:



Notice the importance of playing the second round of hearts to the jack. If West plays a second high heart from hand, South ducks and now no squeeze can operate.

### WORDANSWERS

Answers from page 32

IMPALEMENT

(c) Transfixion, being pierced by a stake through the fundament. USUFRUCT

(a) The right of using or benefiting from someone else's property without damaging or diminishing the property itself. **GAMBRINOUS** 

(b) Full of beer. An eponym of Gambrinus, a mythical Flemish king. RENIFORM (a) Kidney-shaped.

### COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

### by Tim Wapshott



Check your credit card bills to thwart highwaymen hackers

several purchases on the Internet in the hope of unearthing something untoward, but all transactions were honoured correctly and I have no complaints. Vigilance is the best weapon. If you make purchases on the Internet with a credit card, check every statement carefully. As well as potential thieves, virtual vandals can also

threaten to invade our own worlds if we link to the planet electronically. After the threat of virus comes the headache of yandal programmes, which can steal or destroy data files, erase or damage hard drives, and even reroute moderns when you log on to the Internet or other computer sys-

tems. You need a sterile environ-

ment set aside in the computer to place "downloadables' and run them without fear of interfering with any other programmes on your hard disc. The answer is eSafe Protect. All interactivity with the Internet is held in a neutral zone and this programme monitors information for rogue trickery. It also gets excited if it spots data being downloaded or extracted without the user's knowledge. The software serves many other

purposes, one of which can be a godsend to parents of computerliterate youngsters: Internet access control and timed Web surfing. The programme takes up only 5MB of memory, is Windows 95 and NT-compatible, and sells for £69, although with a little vigilance you could pick it up for £49. You can learn more about eSafe Protect at http://www.esafe.co.uk. One final word of safety. If you

have a Nintendo 64 or SNES games console, scrutinise the mains plug because Hitachi has just recalled a faulty batch. Look underneath the plug, between the two lower pins, for the product mark "Hitachi HE-25". Should you see this, call Hitachi's helpine on 0500 030 030 for a free replacement mains lead.

SOLUTION TO JUMBO 129

Cyberspace Thirty Six, which closes on October 14. You could win a Kodak DC25 digital camera worth £200. We have three to be won. All you have to do is describe vividly your favourite photograph in exactly 100 words. The competition is open to all ages. Send your entry, with your name, age, address and telephone number, to: Cyberspace Thirty-Six, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. You may also send e-mail entries to cyber@dircon.co.uk, Normal Times competition rules apply.

☐ ABOUT to be unplugged is

Internet art. Metro, page 24

### TWO BRAINS ANSWERS

Solutions to the puzzles. found on page 30

Ouestion I: tained by adding 1, 3, 9, 27. Thus (the numbers are powers of 3) the next number is 81, 44 + 81 - 125.

Aquinas. The others are scientists.

### LATEST SOFTWARE

WHEN Walt Disney shuffled off this mortal coil, he became one of the earliest cryonics guinea pigs, being frozen in space and time until the day of his big freeze. This prompted Alexei Sayle's fine film credit joke: "Walt Disney in a fridge presents ... Were Walt alive today, he might

feel a slight chill of disappointment as he realised that sometimes the Disney magic is wearing thin. In America the latest full-length animation, Hereiles, bombed at the box office, or at least it did not make the squillions expected.

The moody animation gives Greek legend a heavy American slant and is a mess of corny jokes and dated music. It also proves that Danny DeVito is no Robin Williams when it comes to witty oneliners. But the obligatory spin-off game of the same name from Disney Interactive is another synopsis altogether. This action game has ten levels of gameplay, from zero to hero", with Hercules running in all directions seeking out hidden areas and handy hot-spots. Available for PC and Play-Station, the game is easily as lively and good-looking as Crash Bandicot. The graphics are perfection and, run on a fast computer,

the entire experience boasts many

added depths and qualities so

■ Verdict 8 out of 10. Dreadful

Disney film makes masterful plat-

desperately missing in the movie.

form game. £39.99. WHAT type of game would you call a shaky first-person perspective job where you zap the odd moving block before it zaps you? A business sim, of course Forbes Corporate Warrior, released here by Zablac Entertainment, promises a busi-



ness strategy game to rival all others but delivers, at least five years late, a turkey. Links with a concept and ulti-

mate reality rarely come more tenuous than this. An impossible marriage of two gaming styles, the idea is that you blast away at the competition - moving blocks and buildings in a rectangular grid by combining fire power with number-crunching and a price index. It is as feasible as trying to write a letter on a calculator.

A business game should bring alive the Eighties entrepreneur in all of us, giving us the smell of money and success or suicideleaping losses. This merely brings fury when, after many hours of zapping, and price or stock tweaking (to effect the strength of your fire power, naturally), you realise that this is as good as it gets and you have been taken to the

The CD-Rom runs on Windows 95 and you can play over the network with friends. Whether you will find opponents willing to play you a second time is another

matter. ■ Verdiet: 3 out of 10. Worthless bust business game. £29.99.

### TENTATIVE ESTHROUGHTHEMOTIONS BORN BAGAIN <sup>2</sup>H O <sup>2</sup>R O S C <sup>2</sup>O P E <sup>39</sup>BACK<sup>3</sup>BENCHER CONVERSATIONALIST [<sup>34</sup>G]L|O|R|I|<sup>35</sup>A|N|<sup>36</sup>A 30 U T S P R E A D OT HILSTLEDOWN "SE"PARATOR IN A TIONSALINSURANCE <sup>5</sup>NOSTALGII<sup>55</sup>A TIN STERNECINE SF ASC E C ASR D S SLATTERDAY BARKINGUPT HEWRONGTREE

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £105, is Stephen Crampton of St Albans in Hertfordshire

### White: Tal Shaked; Black: Garry Kasparov: Tilburg, September Grunfeld Defence d4 N6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 The Grunfeld Defence, Kasparov's main alternative to the King's Indian, which is based on . . . do rather aban the challenging ... d5. By Daying the Grunfeld, Black invites White to set up a huge pawn centre. 4 exd5 Nxd5 5 e4 Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 7 Be3 c5 8 Qd2 Qa5 abcde f.gh Kasparov wastes no time in imple-White's queen is trapped in broad

menting a massive strike against White's pawn front. WINNING MOVE

> By Raymond Keene Chess Correspondent

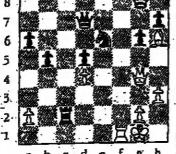
White to play. This position is from the game Koch - Neiman.

France 1997. White's bishop on h6 and his rook on fil severely restrict the black 6 king. How did White finish off? The first correct answer drawn on . 5 Thursday will win a year's 4 subscription to the Staunton ... 3

The answer will be published next Saturday. Last week's winner. S. E. Crow,

Solution to last week's competition: 1 ... Bfi

Almond Path, Glenrothes, Fife.



### **MODERN MANNERS**

### by John Morgan

I read that the "grandest way to skin a pear is said to be with a teaspoon. I tried this at a dinner party recently, but it did not work and people giggled at my attempts. Where did you come across this arcane notion?

- Edith Brownlow, London W8 A | am so sorry that you had pmblems, but I promise you it is a bona fide method. The technique is as follows: choose a large, ripe pear (a nice fat Comice is best) and use as small a spoon as possible. Cut the pear in half crosswise (not lengthwise avocado-fashion) just under halfway down. Starting with the lower, larger half, use the spoon to gently prise the flesh from the skin and eat it. You will be left with two empty skins, the core, and the admiration of all those around you.

I would like to buy an would make a congagement ring for my girlfriend but I do not want to buy diamonds for personal (and polit-

ical) reasons. What alternatives are there? am worried that other precious stones may already have associations not appropriate for an engagement ring. likley. Joha

London W10 A There are three alternative precious stones. Sapphires come in several shades other than the traditional blue, such as vellow, pink, purple,

green and a pale blue; rubies. which can look magnificent (particularly the Burmese pigeon blood variety): and emeralds which, for all their mysterious beauty, are brittle and chip easily. Semi-precious stones such as aquamarines, amethysis and citrines are popular, but are not as suitable as precious stones. As for inappropriate stones, avoid opals, which are soft and carry unlucky associations.

I have to attend the funeral of a close but classy relative. I noticed that Cheric Blair did not wear a hat to the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. Is this now the fashion, or merely bad form? Clara Hamilton, Wiltshire

A Mrs Blair was very conspicu-ous in her hat-less state and obviously chose to ignore three important conventions. First, it is traditional at such occasions to wear a hat in the presence of the Sovereign: second, it is still usual to wear hats to "important" funerals: third, general mourners should always dress in a way that is appropriate to the bereaved family. I noticed that the women members of the Royal Family and the Spencer clan all sported hats. I suggest you follow their example.

Q know your thoughts regarding the correct placing of one's knife and fork after finishing the main course. My parents insisted that the fork should be placed on

LFRED DUNHILL

LONDON

the plate with the prongs facing down, the knife alongside. The reason for this (I was told) is because a former king of England once thumped his fist on to his plate, impaling himself on his own upturned fork thereafter he decreed that all forks should face downwards. I seem to be very much alone in this as the rest of the world seems to leave the fork with the prongs facing upwards.

— A.W. Trustham, Woodhall Spa. Lincolushire

A You are unusual, but not entirely alone. The habit you describe may have been instigated by Charles II, who was keen on French customs. However, by the mid-18th century the convention had been reversed to the prongs facing upwards. This served two purposes: to show off increasingly elaborate decoration on forks, and to prevent the prongs from scratching the delicate painted china of the day. Prongs upwards remains the

How can you po-litely tell somebody they have bad

A. Pennington. London El A This is a delicate issue. Unless the breath is too foul to bear, it remains good manners to suffer in silence. If, however, it is consistently bad, then you could say to

the offender, "I would not normally mention this, but I notice that your breath has been less than healthy-smelling recently. I read in a magazine that such symptoms can suggest a serious underlying condition. Per-haps you should see a doctor." In this way you appear to be putting concerns for the individual's health

before your own sensory comfort.

Is it bad maure.

Invite one child's in-laws to Is it bad manners not to another child's wedding? Our son got married last year, and the bride's parents gave them a splen-didly lavish wedding. Now our daughter is to be married early next year, but our finances are limited, and the guest list has to be much tighter. We get on perfectly well with our son's in-laws, but as they don't live anywhere near us, we hardly ever see them.

- Name and address withheld Wedding guest lists probably cause more heartache and soul-searching than anything else. However, to be invited to a wedding is an honour rather than a right. If you are fond of your daughter-in-law, and she is close to her parents, then it would probably be wise to invite them so as not to cause wounded feelings. If this is not the case, then you are under no obligation to invite anybody's in-

 John Morean is associate editor of GQ. Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, I Pennington Street, London



### WORD-WATCHING

IMPALEMENT a. Blanching

b. Ostracism c. Transfixion

USUFRUCT

a. Use b. The Kiwi fruit c. A Carthaginian magistrate

GAMBRINOUS a. Keen to marry

b. Beery c. A flexible mind

RENIFORM

a. Kidney-shaped b. Held-over class c. To tell again

Answers on page 31

### TWOBRAINS

عكذامن رالإمل

MEMORISING a shuffled pack of cards may not sound easy but it is possible, and it is a good way of assessing your current memory skills. Try with half a pack at first and then test your results

26 cards in 30 minutes - above 52 cards in 30 minutes - excellent 52 cards in 15 minutes - better than 90

per cent of the population 52 cards in 3 minutes — good enough to compete in world championships Question 1:

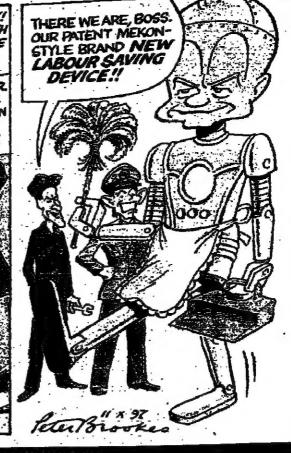
What is the missing number? 4 5 8 17 44 ?? Question 2: Who is the odd one out? Einstein, Rutherford, Curie, Aguinas

Newton

Answers on page 31.

PICTURE LINE





### CROSSWORDS

### by Brian Greer

ince last week, another example of my "pure ignor-ance" has come to light. My apologies to all the people of reinstated county of Rutland of which Oakham is no longer the former county town (21 across in 20,597). In dealing with points raised in readers' letters, I propose to refer to correspondents by name when appropriate, so if you do not want this to happen, please indicate when you write. I try to answer all letters that I consider require a response, but this can take some time. (As well as doing this job, I work parttime as a university teacher.)

One issue that has been prominent in the postbag has been re-RAYMOND KEENE | solved: as you can see, the cross-

READERS are invited to

This picture, recently

those submitted.

printed in The Times, will

with an entry chosen from

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with

your name and address to

PictureLine, Weekend, The

Times, 1 Pennington Street,

The Editor's decision is

entries is Wednesday.

final. The closing date for

appear again next week

be saving.

suggest what the Queen might

words on these two pages are no longer back-to-back. As for my mail in general, a common query is whether the crossword is getting more difficult. Subjectively. hased on some 30 years of solving and more than 20 years as a contributor, I do not discern any marked trend. It may be, however, that since I have taken over the editorship I have reduced the number of easy clues that Ed-mund Akenhead, my predecessor but one characterised as "letting the dog see the rabbit". One tradition that I have maintained is keeping the Monday crossword easier, out of consideration for those wearily beginning another week of toil.

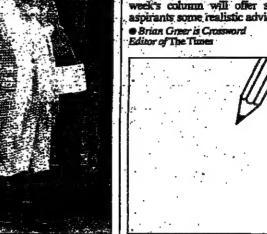
Another common inquiry con-

cerns the numbers of entries sent in for the weekly competition puzzles and the Jumbos. In fact, nobody at The Times has more than the roughest of estimates (running into several thousand n each case) since the procedure is only to check enough solutions to find prizewinners.

My most pleasurable experience is opening letters that express appreciation of our efforts in general, or of particular puzzles or chies. In some future column I will write about favourite clues (as suggested by Hazel Goldman of Brize Norton, herself a crossword compiler). If you have personal favourities, please let me know. "Rake over the coals (3,4,2,4)" is one of mine. Hazel Goldman also raised the

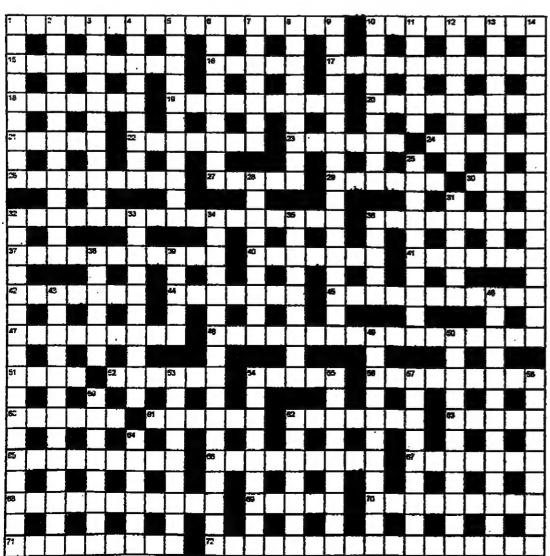
longstanding problem of what to call a person who creates crosswords - setter, composer, compiler, cruciverbalist? Any suggestions? Whatever we call them, would-be ones submit many crosswords to me. Next week's column will offer such aspirants some realistic advice. Brian Greer is Crossword





### JUMBO CROSSWORD 131

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £105, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from silver-plated black resin, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 131, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN to arrive by Monday October 20. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on Saturday, October 27



NAME ADDRESS POSTCODE

### ACROSS

The winning caption for last week's picture competition was submitted

by Karen Mayne, of Ryde on the Isle of Wight

know they suck the

fat out of your thighs,

but where does it go?

 Regular exercise is manager's first approach, as a rule (17)
 Fixing roof at church? Object about it (9) 15 Inexusable reason for bliss (9)

16 Caught near start of play, they grow prickly (5)
 17 Is love at all possibly a stimulant?

18 Make amends for one sent into exile by English (7)

Sweetheart screen idol changed only at the end (9)

20 Tree I chop as it is damaged (9)

21 Philosopher appears to secure door with key (5) 22 A doctor in charge injected into

one's feet (7) 23 Slow passages, having left Greek city (6)

24 The old soldiers I encountered from a Muslim country (6)

26 Exploiting a fierce person to secure victory (7,2)

How one woman might be toasted in wine . . . (5)

.. and bere's wine for another (6) 30 His monument, if required, can be viewed with circumspection (4)

32 Guy wanted to receive great applause (5,3,5,4) Neighbourhood watch with a regular programme of events? (4.5)

Sack directors - that's for

(0.5)
40 Failing to show appreciation, as dogs may be (7)
41 Club's female supporter about to disappear at last (7)
42 The ability of American academics (7)
44 Model makes little manage with a

44 Model makes little money with a easual garment being worn (7)
45 Maltreated strumpet taken back inside and brought home (11)
47 I'm on trial, initially, with unknown giving evidence (9)
48 Amanagant of coldiers with flag

48 Arrangement of soldiers with flag inhitrating forward the whole way (4.4.3.6)

51 RAF heroes, holding the line, took to the air (43)

52 For instance, saint is associated with one Italian town such as this

54 Fish seen around river is ray (5)

56 Attractive strip in publication in London area (3-6)

60 Was angry and removed man from board (6)

61 Note on part of score that provided inspiration for Mendelssohn overture (6)

62 Refer it for review to timber-

63 Bore half-heartedly did additional work (5)

65 Does it go with a card table! (4.5)

66 Has experience with lower bids (9)
67 Get out of that, he retorted in
addition (7)
68 Mill, for example, designed only
for practical purposes [11]
69 Right from the beginning, very
inhibited by a hostile reaction
C 33

(2,3) 70 Precision needed to force to pay

. .

71 Old player's son entering the round-the-world voyage (8)
72 How a hair-raising effect may be produced (17)

### DOWN

October 15.

Worked on deal: perhaps, and cheated (9)
 All-rounder's name, on the off chance, I put on a file (3-10)

3 King consumed, consumed by obsession — that's ominous (11) 4 Offering care without hesita

5 Line in innovative TV — the women of the year (11)

6 Cost cut — one pound off? He extends credit beyond the normal

ats a dollar? (7)

8 One fool and I join forces, for a start (9)
9 Monsieur is helping to accommodate English here?
That's a lie! (17)
10 Call on help, possibly, needing outside support on course (9)
11 Excite a debauchee about possible partner (6)

11 Excuse a become and partner (6)
12 Cryptic puzzles in which the solutions are partly indicated (8)
13 Nearby group of islanders volunteers to follow dogs (5.8)

Papa, a long time ago, made it is basis of our daily schedule (9,8)

Located in Oxford Street? Covering a wide range (5-5)

28 Observing defensive constr in great circle (7.2)

in great circle (7.2)
31 Boastful talk in evidence when the balloon goes up (3.3)
32 Lenient judgement that's certainly never given (7.2.3,5)
33 Obsession of hunter perhaps, following falcon (10)
34 Plastered beneath the pipe in local church (5.3.9)

church (5.39)
35 Gaoler roughed chap up inside part of cell (9)
36 Pronounce characters charming

38 Dog runs off end of cargo boat (6) 39 Cockney's satisfied to pocket a pound for suit (5) Niggardly about fruit that's good value for money (4-9)

Becoming a novice in order in realise an ambition (6,3,4) 49 Like a tree rising river carried in its midst (11)

50 The unit I can change - it's not accurate (i i)

53 Ban from place in ground — police turned up on time (9)
54 Play with celebrity, displaying this for sponsor? (5.4) 55 Traveller's old stuff turned over before the game (5.4)

57 Split about point, with violent speech directed towards centre (2-

58 Outside broadcast left before close of play without being at all interesting (9) 59 Wise man's role getting him involved with start of Christianny

62. Pay for king to get deposed ...

4.5) ... from kingdom, a law maugurating independent

# FIRES

No 1222 DOWN

Insulting: unpolished (4)

Sixth-former's exam (1,5)

State with king (8)

15 Script Ventris deciphered

17 Note between staves (pian)

23 Child's guessing game (1.3)

Burma resist (WW2) (7)

You (arch.) (4) 13 Monastic walk (8)

score) (6.1)

18 Informal top (1-5)

20 Socially naff (3-1)

22 One from Bakur (5)

NT book after [I Peter (I,4)

Son of Sycorax (Tempest) (7)

ACROSS 1 Mac (8)

Eg top-of-pond film (4) request (1-6) - Keller; - of Troy (5)

-Blyton (4) 12 EU food-additive identifier

(1.6). 14 New driver's sign (1-5) 16 Part of oyster season (1,5) Batsman's turn (7) 21 June 6, 1944 (1-3)

24 Both (arch.); Markauthor (5) 25 Disease (7)

26 Red gem (4) 27 In adhesive fashion (8)

SOLUTION TO NO 1221

ACROSS: 1 Locality 5 Asks 8 Great 9 Boswell 11 Tip 12 Firmament 13 Robust 15 Uganda 18 Mangetout 19 Car 20 Flummox 21 Riven 22 Alto 23 Prodence DOWN: 1 Lighter 2 Cheap 3 Let off steam 4 Tabard 6 Shebeen 7 Split 10 Slaughtered 14 Banquet 16 Arrange 17 Hoaxer 18 Maria 19 Coven

PARCES INCLUDE PUSTAGE FOR UK ONLY, SEND SAE FOR DETAILS AND PRECES OF THE TIMES ATLASES OR MAIL ORDER CHARGES EX UR. TIMES CROSSWORDS: Books INTLLID 5450 each, Sonday Tones Crosswords: Book 2 54.50.
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Dictionary ELLSS, Amageum Declaracy (12.59, ALSO Conserved Manages) Crossword Solver.
Completer 101,99, English Grandours and Usage 101,99, R415 Plantimeter 1997/98 ELLS9.
TIMES COMPLITUR CROSSWORDS by David Alexabread — Conserved Solver.
Green 60 contemporal cach, solutions, lacinary and optional HELP levels, Includes: Times Crosswords (19) Complete 1997/98 ELLS9.
[19] Complete 12 & 22 - 23 The Times Crosswords (19) Complete 1997/98 Times Trans Two (b) — The Times Industry 1998/98 Ells9). 

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